

Hebron riots continue

Romania offers to host Israel-Syria talks

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Rioting and clashes between Palestinians and IDF troops and Border Police took place in Hebron for the second consecutive day yesterday.

According to the IDF Spokesman, one soldier and one border policeman were injured, and troops arrested a Palestinian rioter. The Palestinians claim at least 15 were injured in the riots.

Settlers claimed that 17 fire-bombs were thrown at IDF troops and Beit Hadassah. The IDF Spokesman could not confirm the exact number, but stated the number given by the settlers might be

correct. Toward nightfall the rioting was quelled.

"The Hebron Accord is based on a string of falsehoods," said Noam Arnon, spokesman for the Hebron Jewish community last night. He said it was clear that the Palestinians had planned the rioting.

Arnon said there were no Palestinian Police present to stop the rioters and the IDF was forced to disperse them with rubber bullets and tear gas.

"Despite the fence erected a month ago, the rioters still manage to throw whatever they want over the fence toward our homes," he said, demanding that the IDF take down the fence. "What purpose does it serve other than to make our 'ghetto' smaller."

The Hebron community charged that during the rioting, the alternative route to Tel Rumeida it is forced to use until work on the permanent road is completed was closed, leaving the enclave cut off.

"People couldn't reach their houses and those wanting to leave were unable to," Arnon said. "We were guaranteed that the IDF would ensure our safety, but the Palestinians constantly enter the H2 area. The only thing that separates us from the Palestinians are two soldiers."

Meanwhile, residents of Morag in Gush Katif claimed late Saturday night that the Palestinians over Shabbat had torn down 200 meters of the fence erected near their bothouses. They also claimed armed Palestinians had taken up firing positions on the other side of the fence, facing the Jewish settlers and IDF troops.

"We are worried they will try and force their way into the settlement," said resident Yafit Alon, adding that troops were standing next to the settlers.

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Romania has offered to host peace talks between Israel and Syria, suggesting that other Arab states also could enjoy Romanian hospitality and discretion in a Balkan version of Camp David.

Deputy Prime Minister Adrian Severin made the proposal to Foreign Minister David Levy at a meeting yesterday, during which he also urged him to support Romania's application for NATO membership.

Israeli diplomatic sources reacted favorably to the peace-making format described by

Severin, who also serves as foreign minister. They recalled that the late president Nicolae Ceausescu helped set the stage for the Egyptian-Israeli rapprochement culminating in the late president Anwar Sadat's visit in November, 1977.

Not only does Bucharest maintain cordial relations with Syria, but its foreign policy always has been friendly toward Israel. It did not follow the former USSR's lead in severing relations.

Severin's bid for Israeli backing on the NATO expansion issue was prompted by the US-led alliance's upcoming conference in Madrid on July 8. He evidently believes Israeli influence could boost Romania's case.

Israeli diplomats favor Romanian membership on the grounds that Romania constitutes a stabilizing factor in the Balkans.

At the bilateral level, Levy and Severin discussed the feasibility of a quota which could regulate the number of Romanian laborers in this country, only 70,000 of whom are here legally. The idea is that the respective governments would supervise the terms of their employment.

The two also signed an agreement eliminating double taxation between the two countries.

With great sorrow and pain we announce the untimely passing of our beloved

YITZHACK (IJO) RAGER

The grieving wife
Bracha

Children: Eviatar, Avishaf, Gali and Sharon
Grandchildren: Netta, Nadav, Guy, Maya Itai and Elle and the Rogozinsky and Bracha families

Boston University
Israel

Mourns the untimely passing of

YITZHACK RAGER

Mayor of the City of Beersheba

Member of the Boston University Board of Advisors

We extend our sympathies to the Rager family

United Israel Appeal of Canada Inc.
המגבית המאוחדת לישראל בקנדה אינץ

its Officers and Staff
deeply mourn the passing of

YITZHACK (Ijo) RAGER

Mayor of the City of Beersheba

A distinguished leader and a good partner
We extend heartfelt condolences to
Bracha
and the family

Harvey Wolfe President
Steven Ain Executive Vice President
Max Blankstein Chairman, IRC
Amnon Shinar Director General

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Mourns the passing of

The Mayor of Beersheba

YITZHACK I. RAGER

Member of the BGU Board of Governors and the Executive Committee

and sends sincere condolences to the family.

Prof. Avishay Braverman
President

BEERSHEVA FOUNDATION

The Beer-Sheva Foundation
deeply mourns the untimely passing of its Chairman and Founder

Mayor YITZHACK IJO RAGER

of Beersheba

and extends heartfelt condolences to
Prof. Bracha Rager and the entire family

The Board of Directors, Staff and the members of the Beer-Sheva Foundation Association

The leadership and staff of
State of Israel Bonds
deeply mourn the death of

Beersheba Mayor

YITZHACK I. RAGER

Former President of Israel Bonds and a true and steadfast friend

Gideon Patt
President

The Municipality of Beersheba announces with deep sorrow the untimely passing of the man of vision, the builder and renewer of the city of Beersheba, a dedicated, brave, and faithful man, who loved the city and its residents.

MAYOR YITZHACK (IJO) RAGER

who lost his battle against a bitter illness.

We bow our heads and send condolences to the family, and to the residents of the city Beersheba, whom he so loved, and on whose behalf he worked and fought ceaselessly until his final day.

May his memory be blessed.

Those who would honor his memory may view the casket in the Beersheba City Hall Plaza on Monday, June 16, 1997, from 1:30 p.m. The funeral procession will depart Beersheba City Hall at 4 p.m. The funeral will take place at the Beersheba Old Cemetery at 5 p.m.



Peres meets Arafat
Former prime minister Shimon Peres meets with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in Ramallah yesterday. It was Peres's second meeting with Arafat since last year's elections. At a press conference afterward, Peres said that Arafat, whom he called 'the Palestinian president,' dismissed 'all these stories that accuse him of tending to organize terror. These claims have no basis.'

(Text: Jon Immanuel)

More fighting reported in Lebanon

By DAVID RUDGE

Fighting continued in the security zone last night, following long-range Hizbullah mortar attacks against several South Lebanese Army positions earlier in the day.

There were no casualties in the earlier incidents, which were concentrated in the zone's western sector. IDF and SLA gunners returned fire.

Reports from Lebanon said the fighting resumed in the same region last night with more exchanges north of Bint J'hail township.

The incidents yesterday followed a clash between IDF troops and Hizbullah gunmen in the Rehan area, in the zone's eastern sector, on Saturday night.

Cpl. Shimmy Friedman, 20, a paratrooper medic, was moderately wounded in that incident. He is being treated in Haifa's Rambam Hospital for a bullet wound in the chest. His condition was said to be improving.

There has been a marked escalation in Hizbullah activi-

ties recently. UN sources said there were as many as 80 incidents in May - the highest in a single month since March last year, shortly before Operation Grapes of Wrath.

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved

RABBI BENJAMIN L. TELLER

The funeral will take place on Tuesday, June 17, 1997 at 10:00 a.m. at the Eretz Ha Chaim Cemetery near Beit Shemesh.

A bus will leave from the Agron St. Synagogue at 9:00 a.m.

He will be deeply mourned by:
His wife: Nehama Teller
His children: Ann & Gil Rosenthal
Azriel & Suzannah Teller
His grandchildren and great-grandchildren:
Jonathan Rosenthal
Abby & Nelson Stacks
Tammy & Ziv Golan, Shachar & Amit
Aron & Efrat Teller
Debra & Andrew Shure
Yair Teller

Shiva at the Teller residence in Jerusalem

With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of the founder and president of the company,
Akram Sbitany & Sons Ltd.

AKRAM I. SBITANY

May his soul rest in peace.

The funeral will take place after his sons' arrival. Condolences may be extended directly after the interment ceremony at the Sbitany residence in Jerusalem, Shuafat, main road.

His wife and family

ARRIVALS

THE CHILDREN, STAFF and Board of the Alyn Woldenberg Children's Hospital and Rehabilitation Center, Jerusalem, are delighted to welcome Robert and Isabelle Miller, President and Treasurer respectively of the Friends of Alyn Miami Chapter.

FOR BAR-ILAN UNIVERSITY'S Global Board of Trustees Meetings and Jewish Identity Leadership Mission: U.S.A. - Rabbi Emanuel Rackman, Chagallor; Mrs. Barbara and Mrs. Rhonda Adkins; Mr. Herbert and Mrs. Daisy Bernstein; Anne Bernstein; Dr. Donald J. Cohen to receive an honorary doctorate and Mrs. Phyllis Cohen; Mrs. Rena Cohen; Mr. Aharon and Mrs. Rachel Dahan; for the dedication of the Dahan Family Epoux Classroom Building: Nissim, Miri, Rachal, Lily and Erin Dahan; Elvay Marsha, Richard, Daniel, Sara and Toby Dahan; Mr. Art and Mrs. Ann Desha and family; Mr. Brian Doppelt; Ms. Wendy Glatt; Mr. Alfred Goldstein; Brig. Gen. (Res.) Yehuda Halary; Executive Vice President, Bar-Ilan University and Mrs. Leora Halary; Rev. Grady and Mrs. Bernice Hargrove; Mr. Romie Harris; Mr. Charles Hughes; Mr. Martin and Mrs. Pia Hughes; Mrs. Ester Jasson; Dr. Mordecai and Dr. Monique Katz; Mr. Stanley and Mrs. Marilyn Katz; Mr. Ben Koch; Mr. Arthur Krantzler; Mr. Stuart and Mrs. Leanna Liebowitz; Mrs. Golda Lindenbaum, Jerry, Dona, Jeremy and Jason Locklair; Mr. Jack and Mrs. Gitta Nagel; Mrs. Pearl Rosenick for the dedication of the Resnick Institute for Advanced Technology Building: Mr. James and Mrs. Charisse, Rose, Mrs. Mary Rice; Mr. Marcus Rosenberg; Mr. Elliot Rosenberg; Mrs. Joyce Saffir; Mr. Frank Schachter; Mrs. Zippora Schorr; Mrs. Arthur Stein; Melvin Stein; Esq.; Mrs. Barbara Stolman; Dr. Gerald Stolman; Rabbi Mitchell Wohlberg for the dedication of the Rabbi Harry J. Wohlberg Chair in Biblical Commentary; Ms. Susan Wurf, Australia; Mr. Hans and Mrs. Gliny Bachrach; Rabbi Selwyn and Mrs. Eileen Franklin; Rabbi Ronald and Mrs. Shirley Lubliner; Mr. Nathan and Mrs. Nechama Weidiger, Canada; Prof. Irwin Cotler; Mr. Aljea and Mrs. Patsy Friedland and Ms. Ester Friedland to dedicate the Finkler Hall of Human Rights; Mr. Saul and Mrs. Mira Koachitky to dedicate the Martin (Szasz) Land of Israel Ladies Department and to receive (Mira) an honorary doctorate; David and Serena Koachitky; Tamar and Eric Goldstein; Prof. Jack and Mrs. Lili Pasternack; Mr. Kurt Rothschild, Singapore; Mr. Sam and Mrs. Florie Klaf, Germany; The Levant to receive an honorary doctorate; and Paula Cederbaum family of Munich; Mr. Moses Barcek, Venezuela; Rana Fynches Brenac; Mr. Elich and Mrs. Beise Kappel; Mr. Nisim and Mrs. Ada Moskowitz; Mrs. Clara Sznajderman, Switzerland; Mrs. Nurit Lowinger.

הקדמת השכל

IN CONTEXT / HERB KEINON

No absolute truth, only interpretation

"A man hears what he wants to hear, and disregards the rest." Simon and Garfunkel sang some 25 years ago in their hit song "The Boxer." The reactions to yesterday's High Court decisions on the Bar-On Affair prove this point well.

The Likud, including the two heroes of the affair, Binyamin Netanyahu and Tzahi Hanegbi, looked at the decisions and saw complete and total vindication.

Opposition leaders, especially Ehud Barak and Yossi Sarid, looked at the decisions, especially the minority opinions, and saw enough moral turpitude and culpability to call for the dismissal of the government.

Five months and thousands of hours of deliberation and investigation later, the two sides stand exactly where they stood on the night in January when Ayala Hasson placed "Bar-On for Hebron" in the political lexicon.

So where is the truth that everyone — the media, Netanyahu, Hanegbi, Barak, and Sarid — said they were after? In Bar-On, it seems, we are left with no absolute truth, only interpretation. The public, depending on its particular predisposition, is left to pick and choose.

Netanyahu, according to his spokesman Shai Bazak, greeted the decisions with the words, "It is good that justice was done."



Tzahi Hanegbi (Brian Hendler)



Yossi Sarid (Isaac Harari)

Bazak, speaking on Army Radio, was — at least in the morning — much more expansive than his boss. "The same people now talking about the minority opinion never came to terms with the decision of the voters to elect the prime minister, never came to terms with the decision of the attorney-general not to indict him, and now that a decision was made in the court, cannot come to grips with that, and are only talking about the minority opinion."

Hanegbi said he has no problem with the minority opinion. "I was very happy about everything the court said," he told Israel Radio. "It is said that justice needs to be done and also seen. I see the

[April] decision of the state attorney [not to indict] as justice that was done to me, and now the decision by the court as an attempt to bring that justice to light, and show that from a public point of view, there was no basis to the petitions."

But, judging from the predictable reactions of the opposition, they may as well have been reading a decision from another hearing entirely.

Barak issued a statement saying that although he respects the decision, the public should to "look carefully at the minority opinion."

According to Barak, the whole problem was not a legal one, but rather a public/moral one. He said that Netanyahu should have resigned after the attorney-general wrote up his decision not to indict, and that the case should never have even gone to the High Court.

Labor's spokesman issued an even stronger statement. "Despite the majority opinion not to indict Netanyahu because of technical-legal reasons, which — of course — we will respect, there is no doubt that acceptable public norms and common sense obligate him to resign."

Sarid was the least gracious of the losing petitioners. "True, the prime minister will not be indicted under the present circumstances, but the public indictment will come. That indictment — public and moral — has greater validity today in light of the decision and the minority opinion."

Sarid will continue to have plenty of time to look for the missing piece of evidence he believes could link Netanyahu to criminal wrongdoing in the affair. Yesterday's court decision, with all its varied interpretations, insured one thing: The government will not fall over Roni Bar-On.

NEWSLINE

With Yedidya Stern, dean, Bar-Ilan University Law School

By HERB KEINON

Immediately after the High Court decision on the Bar-On Affair was announced yesterday, there was talk among the opposition of another appeal to the Court. In the 1995 Nahmani fertility case, Ruti Nahmani, after losing her appeal to the Supreme Court, asked and was granted another hearing by an expanded panel. Is such a scenario realistic here?

I don't think that is a significant option. The Bar-On case before the court was a clear legal question; there was no new legal ground broken. In the Nahmani case, a wider panel was chosen because that was a special situation, where a sensitive issue was being discussed and there were far-reaching questions of principle. The legal issues involved in this case [Bar-On] are pretty common.

In the decisions involving whether to indict Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and whether Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi should be removed, there were minority opinions. How important are they?

The fact that the minority opinions are published shows that they are significant in terms of public interest, that it is important that the public sees why the justices in the minority thought differently.

Do you think that as a result of the minority opinions, there will now be a public outcry for a committee of inquiry?

I think the affair is over. The affair has passed through all the necessary processes. The government weathered criticism; it was shown that the process of decision making was faulty, but there is no room to bring criminal charges over that.

Should this issue have made it to the High Court in the first place?

In cases like this it is good that the decision gets the stamp of approval of the court, otherwise there will always be questions about the decision of the attorney-general [not to indict].

The police recommended that the prime minister and justice minister be indicted. Both the attorney-general and the court overruled that. Is this a slap in the face for the police?

No, not at all. The different [legal] bodies have different parameters [by which to judge who should be indicted]. The police have their professional parameters. If every case that the police thought should go to court ended in a conviction, the police could act as the judiciary as well. The issues go through various filters, which gauge them differently.

I think that this case is a certificate of maturity for the system. In a matter relating to the highest official, all the processes were employed — the police, the attorney-general, the High Court — and the system worked.

Likud signs up 212,000 members

By SARAH HONIG

The Likud has concluded its membership drive and has emerged with a record 212,000 registered dues-paying members, making it the largest party in the country.

The membership drive was conducted over the past few months, prior to the election of delegates on June 23 for the September party convention.

Labor's recent membership drive netted 166,000 members.

In addition to delegates, the Likud members will choose officials, including new branch chairmen, who will be responsible for revitalizing the party's grass roots base.

The voting in the Likud primaries will take place in 100 polling stations across the country, most of them located in

Likud branches. The final results will be tallied by optical scanner at a special computerized center set up in Givat Shmuel.

Proposals to limit the party leader's authority in party affairs and return more authority and independence to Likud forums are expected to be some of the more contentious issues at the September convention. There are also likely to be proposals to do away with the direct elections system for prime minister. The Likud had staunchly opposed the direct elections system when it was voted on in the Knesset, though then-MK Binyamin Netanyahu broke party discipline to support it.

Meanwhile, the Likud secretariat is to meet on Thursday to hear Netanyahu speak on diplomatic and political issues.



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Now with the new chequered design.



Bar-Ilan University

Dedication of the Frank & Vilma Martin (Szusz) Land of Israel Studies Department

In the presence of the donors Mira and Saul Koschitzky (Toronto)

Guest of Honor
Mr. David Berger
Ambassador of Canada to Israel

today, June 16, 1997 at 1:00 p.m.
in the Rappaport Faculty of Jewish Studies building
By invitation

Bar-Ilan University

Conferment of Honorary Doctorates

in the framework of the 1997 Global Board of Trustees Meetings and "Jewish Identity Leadership Mission"

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Dr. Donald J. Cohen
Prof. Menachem Elon
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Guest Lecture
Mr. Elyakim Rubinstein
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am are here legally. The
that the respective
of their employment
two also signed an agree
eliminating double tax
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anon
ties recently. UN says
there were as many as
deaths in May — the highest
single month since last
year, shortly before the
Grapes of Wrath.

ARRIVALS

NEWS

in brief

Bar-Ilan to honor Sharansky, Havel

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky and retired Supreme Court justice Menachem Elon are to receive honorary doctorates from Bar-Ilan University in a ceremony tonight at the university's Ramat Gan campus. Honorary degrees also will be given to Dr. Donald Cohen, a child psychiatrist, pediatrics, and psychology professor at Yale University; Torah scholar Rabbi Yosef Kapach; German philanthropist Lorenz Cederbaum; and Canadian philanthropist Mira Koschitzky.

Czech President Vaclav Havel will receive an honorary doctorate in a ceremony at the Prague Presidential Castle on Friday, Jerusalem Post Staff

Infant dies at day-care center

A five-month-old boy apparently choked to death at his day-care center in Bat Yam yesterday. A half hour after feeding the infant, the caretaker noticed that he was not responding to stimuli and called Magen David Adom. The emergency crew that arrived could not resuscitate the infant. The cause of death is being investigated. *Itim*

12 remanded in Kafr Ma'ar murder

Ha'amakim Police arrested 12 people yesterday and Saturday in connection with the murder of Omar Saleh on Saturday in Kafr Ma'ar in the lower Galilee.

All 12 were remanded yesterday for periods of between four and 12 days. The shooting of Saleh was apparently part of an ongoing feud between the Saleh and Aslan families. The feud erupted last year when a six-year-old boy from the Aslan family was run over and killed by a car driven by a Saleh family member. Large numbers of policemen and border policemen were brought to the village to prevent rioting. *Itim*

Hospitals delay service reduction

By JUDY SIEGEL

Directors of the country's 25 state general, geriatric, and psychiatric hospitals have agreed to postpone a severe curtailment of services that was to have begun this morning. They did so at the request of Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, who asked for time to negotiate with the Treasury over its 20 percent cut in hospital budgets.

Matza instructed his ministry's accountant to approve the hospitals' orders for equipment through July, so their functioning may continue normally. The Treasury wants NIS 197 million cut from hospital budgets for equipment and medications

until the end of the year.

The Treasury issued the order because Matza declined, more than a month ago to sign an order increasing the per diem hospitalization rate, which the health funds must pay for their members. Matza argued that a hike would cause the health funds to collapse, because they have not received an increase in health taxes or government subsidies.

Matza hinted that he would soon decide to raise the per diem rate, but did not give a figure. He did tell the hospital directors that he had asked Finance Minister Dan Meridor late last week to freeze the cut until the negotiations are completed, but has not yet received a response.

World News, Page 9

AMCHA - National Israeli Center for Psychosocial Support of Survivors of the Holocaust and the Second Generation

Eight Open Discussion Meetings in English for the Second Generation

17.6.97 The Impact of the Shoah: Where Do We Go From Here?

Tuesday Evening from 8:30 to 10:00 p.m. at the AMCHA Center, 23 Hillel Street, Jerusalem (Rassco passage), 8th floor

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return to POLAND



Join the Jewish Historical Seminars for our in-depth English-speaking tour that examines the heritage that was Jewish Poland.

Led by Dr. Edith Rogovin Frankel of the Hebrew University, the 11-day tour starts off with a flight to Warsaw. The itinerary includes visits to Cracow, Lublin, Bialystok, Czestochowa, Warsaw, Auschwitz and Birkenau. Stops will also be made in Tykocin, famous for its 17th century Baroque synagogue, the Janusz Korczak orphanage, the Yiddish theater, the Jasna Gora monastery of Black Madonna fame, the Oscar Schindler factory, the Potocki Palace and much, much more.

Dr. Frankel will lecture along the way, providing historical background on the sites. No Shabbat travel.

THE DATES: July 6 - 16.

THE PRICE of US\$ 1825 is per person sharing a double room, includes flights, transfers, lectures, touring and travel in tourist buses, entrance fees, tour guides and a local guide escort, plus a daily buffet breakfast and kosher or vegetarian meals for Friday night and Saturday lunch. If you are joining the tour in Poland, the cost is US\$ 1380. Single supplement \$185.

For further information and reservations, please call Jo-Anne Greenblatt 02-534-2079, or Debbie Zuberi 02-534-5191, E-mail: zuberie@netvision.net.il Ziontours - 19 Hillel St., Jerusalem, Tel. 02-625-4326, Fax. 02-625-5329.

Biran: Mideast arms race increasing

Israel opens its Paris Air Show exhibit

By ELDAD BECK

PARIS - The Middle East arms race has accelerated, bringing with it the threat of unconventional weapons and long-range ballistic missiles, and Israel must confront these threats with an array of defensive and offensive means, Defense Ministry Director-General Ilan Biran said here yesterday.

Speaking at the biannual Paris Air Show, Biran said: "The IDF has a unique mission which is to deter the enemy, prevent war and convince the other side that he only

place where a compromise and a conciliation could be reached is around the negotiating table. Until that day will come, [Israeli] scientists and workers of military industries will go on strengthening Israel's deterrence capacity."

Biran yesterday opened the show's Israeli pavilion: 1,150 square meters of booths, where 23 manufacturers are exhibiting their products. The pavilion cost \$980,000 to erect; 75% of the money came from the exhibiting industries, and 25% from the Israeli Export Institute, which organized the display with

SIBAT, the Defense Ministry department that promotes defense exports.

Under the slogan "armed for the third millennium," the Israeli exhibitors are displaying a range of upgrades, modernizations and add-ons, designed to extend the lives of current defense systems.

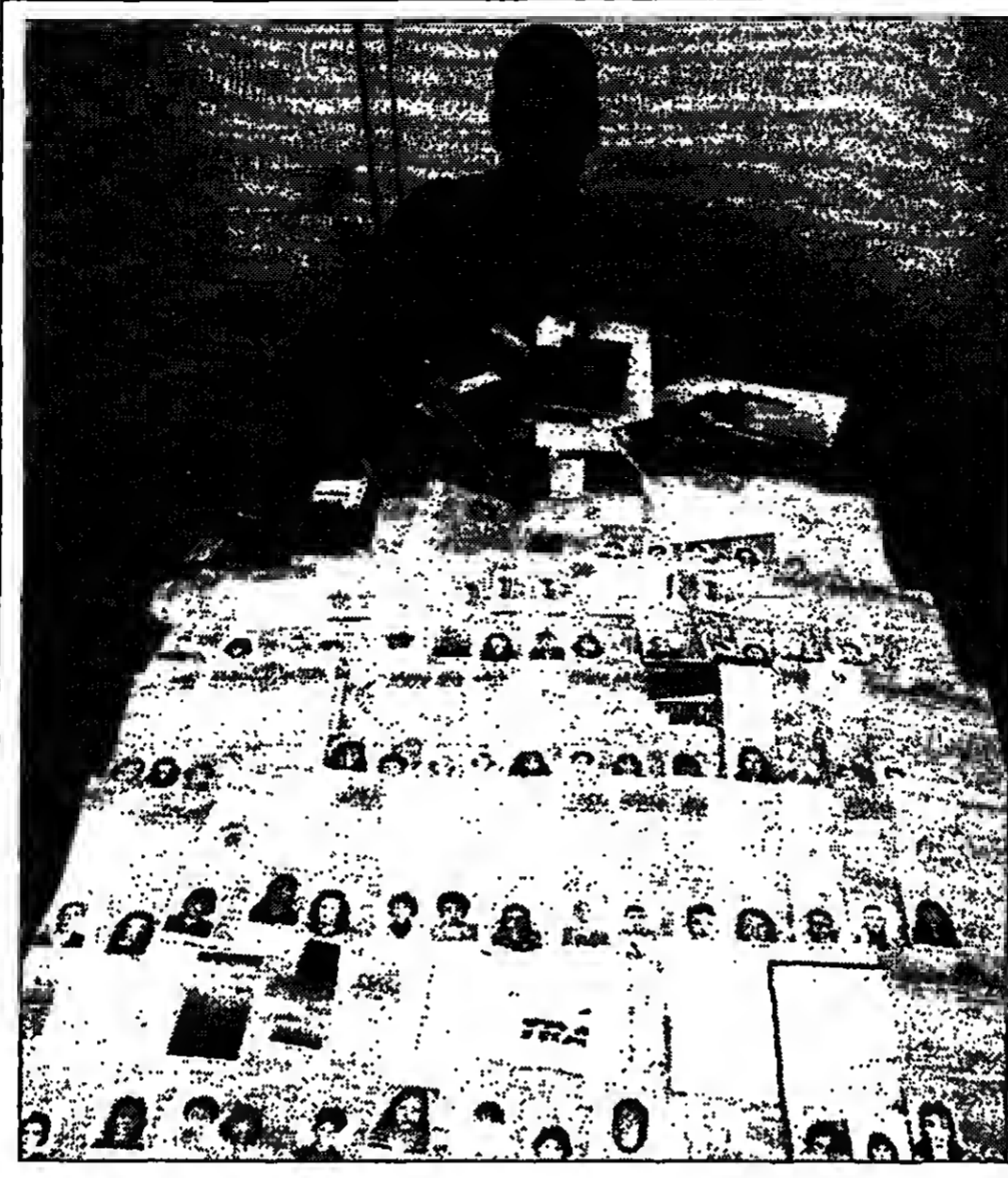
Rafael, the arms development authority, yesterday unveiled a new generation of anti-armor missiles, named SPIKE, which has a range of up to 2.5 km. and is resistant to countermeasures.

Rafael is also displaying the Python 4, an air-to-air missile considered to be the

world's most advanced dogfight missile. The Python 4, which has been used by the IAF for several years, has already been ordered by two air forces and is being evaluated by the Australian Air Force.

Israel Aircraft Industries is trying to expand its involvement in the civilian air market. It is producing, in conjunction with the American Galaxy Aerospace, a super-modern business jet. Its first flight is planned for later this year.

IAI's Bedek division recently delivered to United Parcel Service the first Boeing 747-200 converted to a freighter jet.



Sneaking in

An Interior Ministry clerk displays the dozens of passports confiscated in Haifa port that belong to women who arrived here on one-day cruises from Odessa and Cyprus and never returned to their ships. According to the ministry, most of these women are probably working in massage parlors. The ministry said in a statement that since one-day visitors need not apply for a visa, it is easy for them to slip by overwhelmed border guards and sneak into the country to work illegally. All the passports shown above were confiscated in one month. (Ronen Kodes)

Mevasseret squatters remain in absorption center

By ELLI WOHLGELERTER

Some 300 people who broke into apartments in the Mevasseret Zion absorption center over the weekend were still there yesterday, as Jewish Agency officials pressed to have them removed.

Members of the group had earlier threatened to blow themselves up with the apartments' gas canisters unless housing solutions are found for them. The squatters claim that they have been waiting three years for help in obtaining housing.

"It's not like a hostage negotiation," said

police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby. "We are negotiating with them together with the Jewish Agency and the local authority. They're not locked in with guns, with police forces surrounding the building, or anything like that."

But Jewish Agency spokesman Eldad Adar denied the agency is conducting any sort of negotiations, saying it wants police to arrest the squatters and clear them out of the apartments.

"We're not negotiating with them, there's nothing to negotiate about," Adar said. "The police need to take care of the situation."

"It's not our business how they do it, and what they are going to do. According to the law, those people broke into our property."

The apartments were being prepared for new immigrant families, Adar said, some of whom are due to arrive today, including a family from France with seven children. He said the squatters had vandalized the center, stealing electric fuses and gas canisters.

The first few couples started their sit-in on Thursday night, and about 70 couples joined them over the course of the weekend.

Mevasseret local council head Eli Moyal said the squatters are children of veteran

Mevasseret residents, mostly from the Ma'oz Zion section. Moyal denied allegations that he had encouraged the break-in, saying that he had tried to get the first couples to leave upon their arrival Thursday evening.

But yesterday Moyal issued a statement defending the squatters, saying the government is "forcing young people to break the law, and is creating a time bomb." He said the couples had been waiting to purchase apartments under the "build your own apartment" scheme, but that last year the program was canceled and no alternative offered.

Acre protesters demand development status A be restored

By DAVID HUDGE

Hundreds of demonstrators yesterday closed access routes to Acre, where a strike of schools and many businesses brought the city to a standstill.

The protest was organized by a public action committee, backed by the municipality, to press the government to reinstate the city's priority A development status.

The protests caused long delays for motorists, while hundreds of pupils took part in the march through the main street. Police did not intervene. "Acre was like a ghost town with schools, banks, and businesses closed, and it will be the same again today," declared Mayor Eli de-Castro.

According to municipal officials, as many as 5,000 Jewish residents have left Acre to live in

other development towns in the Galilee which still enjoy A status.

"Land and homes are much cheaper, by up to \$30,000 on a house, in development towns with A status. Mortgages are also easier to get and bigger and residents get 15 percent income tax reductions," said de-Castro.

"What has hurt us most, however, is that the decision by the government to lower Acre's status from A to B has taken NIS 5 million from the education budget. This was the straw that broke the camel's back and prompted concerned residents to organize a public action committee to fight for the reinstatement of Acre's former status."

According to some of the protesters, homes vacated by Jewish residents have since been purchased by Arabs, thereby changing the demographic balance of the city.

AFFAIR

Continued from Page 1

"Even the minority opinion is important and it would be better were Hanegbi to reach his own conclusions and resign," he added.

Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy (National Religious Party) said the opposition's response "shows the extent of its hypocrisy and its difficulty in accepting decisions which don't suit its political plans."

MK Zvi Hendel (NRP) demanded that Netanyahu keep his promise to return Ya'acov Ne'eman to the Justice Ministry.

Likud faction chairman Michael Eitan called on the opposition to respect the ruling and "put an end to the attempts to topple the elected

government by false accusations."

MK Ran Cohen (Meretz), chairman of the Knesset State Control Committee, said he would convene the committee this week to ask State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat to prepare a report on the affair.

Tsomet faction chairman Eliezer Zandberg said the decision "puts an end to the attempts to take over the Prime Minister's Office by means other than the ballot."

Former Labor secretary-general Nissim Zvili said Labor had "refrained from striking out at Netanyahu and his government on the Bar-On Affair until after the criminal investigation was over. We should have gone after them on the civic aspects of their wrongdoing."

Basheva Tsur and Sarah Honig contributed to this report.

SHUFFLE

Continued from Page 1

"This means 20 percent of the panel thought this prime minister should stand trial," Beilin said, terming the verdict a political earthquake. "I think today the countdown has begun on Binyamin Netanyahu's rule."

But the prime minister's communications director, David Bar-Ilan, scoffed at Beilin's assessment, saying, "This is the first time in the history of democratic government that a minority opinion has been characterized as a victory."

He contended this is not a legitimate way to bring down a government, which he conceded is the opposition's legitimate objective.

ANALYSIS

Hanegbi is more vulnerable than ever

By SARAH HONIG

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi seemed elated and confident yesterday after yesterday's High Court decision.

He said that "out of all times, it would seem very unlikely that [Prime Minister Binyamin] Netanyahu would want to remove me from my post."

Hanegbi may indeed believe what he says, but equally possible is that his words are at best wishful thinking and more likely posturing for the showdown that he realizes could well be in the offing.

Paradoxically, the court's decision has made Hanegbi more vulnerable than he has been since the Bar-On Affair began. He was safest when the court left him dangling while it pondered the petitions against him. Even Netanyahu admitted this when he said that he would reach no decision on the Justice portfolio as long as the Bar-On Affair was before the court.

But now that Hanegbi is no longer in legal danger, Netanyahu is no longer constrained by the fear that he would be seen as abandoning a comrade on the battlefield. Therefore, this is when Hanegbi must watch his back.

He knows he was given the Justice portfolio only because of his predecessor Ya'acov Ne'eman's legal travails. But Ne'eman was unequivocally vindicated; there is nothing preventing him from asking for his portfolio back.

Netanyahu's aides say that he would have an extremely hard time saying no to Ne'eman. Formally, the story is that he has not yet made up his mind, and that it is not Netanyahu, but Ne'eman who is undecided.

But one school of thought in the

Prime Minister's Office is that there was no chance that Ne'eman would publicly send any signal as long as Hanegbi was cast in the endangered martyr role. Now that he is safe, it may be a different story.

Hanegbi ally MK Sylvan Shalom warned yesterday against "handing another Likud ministry to yet another non-Likudnik." Ne'eman is a political outsider brought in by Netanyahu in a quest for excellence.

Doing this would seriously impair the Likud's ability to win the next election, he argued. Too many power bases have gone to coalition partners, and the Likud is losing far too much clout.

Shalom, of course, has a vested interest. If Hanegbi stays in his present office, that leaves a cabinet vacancy - the Science Ministry, relinquished by Ze'ev Begin. Shalom wants it, and therefore the last thing he needs is for Ne'eman to reenter the government.

To be sure, Netanyahu cannot scoff at party considerations. Hanegbi and Shalom were extremely loyal to him and he now has the bond of a shared ordeal with Hanegbi. Keeping Hanegbi where he is and coopting Shalom would be the easiest thing to do.

But Netanyahu cannot ignore his promise to Ne'eman, and it would be politically difficult to renege, especially as many cabinet members are not fans of Hanegbi.

They will be unable to pressure Netanyahu, but he will not be able to ignore them if Ne'eman now decides to openly lay claim to his old portfolio.

The ball is now in Ne'eman's court. He is now in the US, but he will determine what happens next. The High Court has not made Hanegbi invincible.

Beersheba Mayor Yitzhak Rager dies at 65



Beersheba Mayor Yitzhak Rager

Beersheba Mayor Yitzhak Rager, 65, died yesterday after a seven-month battle with cancer. He will be buried today.

Rager was born in Egypt, and his family immigrated here when he was a baby. His father worked as Beersheba's municipal engineer.

Rager went to high school in Jerusalem, then graduated from the David Yellin Teachers' College, and received a degree in international relations from Hebrew University. He also studied Soviet affairs at Hunter College in New York and at New York University.

Upon completing his studies, he served as an infantry officer in the IDF and, as a reservist, commanded the regiment that captured Bethlehem and Gush Etzion in the Six Day War. He completed his military service as a lieutenant-colonel.

During his career, he directed the office of interior minister Yisrael Rokach. He was responsible for the law requiring all buildings in Jerusalem to be faced with Jerusalem stone. During his service as chief

Gadua education officer, he established the National Service program that sent high school students to development areas.

He was also a journalist, holding several positions at Israel Radio, and editing *Hayom*, the daily established by Moshe Dayan.

From 1971-1973, he was an adviser at the embassy in London, and founded the 35a, a Soviet Jewry group. From 1974-76, he was consultant in New York.

He organized the country's 30th anniversary celebrations in 1978, and then served as general adviser to the chairman of the Jewish Agency. After that, he served as international president of the Israel Bonds Organization.

He returned to Beersheba in 1984 as the representative of Canadian real estate magnate David Azrieli, and was elected mayor in 1989 on an independent list. He then formed a coalition with the Likud.

He is survived by his wife, Prof. Bracha Rager, four children, and six grandchildren. *(Itim)*

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Beyond the bottom line

As befits someone with an MBA from the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is acutely aware of the importance of the bottom line. And the bottom line of the Bar-On Affair, which has hung over Netanyahu's head since Channel 1 revealed the affair on January 22, is that the prime minister has been cleared by the High Court of Justice of criminal behavior in the unsuitable, and mercifully short-lived appointment of Roni Bar-On as attorney-general, thus bringing the affair to its denouement.

In a 4-1 decision, the court ruled that Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein and State Attorney Edna Arbel had made a "reasonable" decision when they found there was not enough evidence to indict Netanyahu. "The court will not overturn an attorney-general's decision unless it is deemed extremely unreasonable," they wrote in their majority decision.

Not surprisingly, Netanyahu and his staff were quick to hail the justices' decision, labeling it a "victory for justice." Some even went so far as to claim that the High Court's rejection of the petitions against the failure to indict Netanyahu and Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi were proof that the whole affair was really baseless.

The prime minister is within his rights to celebrate the court's decision, and perhaps even to try and argue once again that the whole affair was a media invention - as Netanyahu did so startlingly, minutes after the attorney-general and state attorney released their findings on the Bar-On Affair nearly two months ago. But it is worrisome that the prime minister and his close aides prefer to bet on public indifference to government propriety than to work on ironing out the many wrinkles in this government's perfor-

mance.

As the justices explained yesterday, their decision was not a complete exoneration of Netanyahu and Hanegbi. "The court says only that the prime minister's decision and the minister's behavior are not against the law. It does not say that they are not a violation of ethics," they wrote.

Bar-On's appointment, it should be remembered, stemmed from a combination of Netanyahu's desire to appoint a political crony as attorney-general and indicted MK Aryeh Deri's wish to have, as head of the country's prosecution, a lawyer prepared to entertain the prospect of a plea-bargain for Deri, which would salvage the Shas leader's political future.

The police investigation into the affair showed that Netanyahu was aware of Deri's interest in Bar-On's appointment, but as Rubinstein wrote in his decision not to indict the prime minister: "The material presented to us by the police raised suspicion that crimes had been committed in the appointment of Roni Bar-On as attorney-general, but it was not conclusive and would not stand up in court from the point of view of criminal law... Problems of normative behavior are not necessarily criminal."

And so, as far as Netanyahu is concerned, the bottom line is healthy enough - he has escaped indictment and his problematic justice minister has received a High Court seal of approval. But for the good of the country, the prime minister, after his night of celebration, should take a closer look at the balance sheet, for unless he delivers on his promises of clean government and the broadening of the government's decision-making process, he will discover all too soon how easy it is to fall into the red.

Russian roulette

Ironically, the government's poor economic performance in its first year of office may do more to prevent Yisrael Ba'Aliya from causing a full-fledged coalition crisis than any possible promise by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to reassess the appointment of a Foreign Ministry professional as ambassador to Russia.

Yisrael Ba'aliya is angered by the fact that a non-Russian speaking diplomat, Herzl Inbar, has been named as the next envoy to Moscow, without its even being consulted on the move.

According to Yisrael Ba'aliya, the coalition agreement gives it the right to a number of diplomatic postings, Moscow being one of them. Yisrael Ba'aliya leader Natan Sbaransky, once Netanyahu's close friend but now quickly becoming one of his fiercest critics, was so incensed at Inbar's appointment that he carried out the highly demonstrative act of boycotting last Friday's cabinet meeting.

Netanyahu has delegated his director-general, Avigdor Lieberman, to resolve this dispute, but a compromise is surely in the cards because Yisrael Ba'aliya does not have much of a hand to play. Sbaransky's bluff has already been called once, on the Bar-On Affair, when despite his famous "10%" remark he failed to act on his threat to leave the government. If Sbaransky failed to quit the cabinet on that issue of principle, the likelihood of his party bolting the government over an ambassadorial appointment is even less.

Sbaransky knows that if he is to repeat his stunning election success next time around, he will have to have proved to his constituency of new immigrants that this government has bettered their lot. With little sign of an immediate turnaround in the present slowing economy, attempting to bring the government down now would, for Yisrael Ba'aliya, be akin to playing Russian roulette.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

- OMAR GHANIMAT**
 Sir - I am writing regarding your article of May 30 on (alleged) torture victim Omar Ghanimat. It contained a serious error, stating that Omar Ghanimat is the brother of Musa Ghanimat, the alleged perpetrator of the bombing in the Tel Aviv cafe. As Omar Ghanimat's attorney in the Israeli High Court, and as the attorney who represented Musa Ghanimat's family when their home was demolished by the IDF, I can assure you that the two are not brothers. Ghanimat is a common family name, especially in the village of Sourif, where some 3,000 people have this name. Omar Ghanimat is 45 years old and the father of seven children.
 By associating Omar Ghanimat with Musa Ghanimat, who simply shares the same name, you effectively linked my client to involvement in suicide bombings and other attacks - a claim that my client has denied repeatedly and has yet to be proven despite 50 plus days of harsh interrogation and torture.
 Under Israeli law, Omar Ghanimat is still an innocent man.
 ALLEGRA PACHECO, Adv.
 Jerusalem.
- MISSIONARY ACTIVITY**
 Sir - Patrick Goodenough's article of June 3 defending the activities of the missionaries in Israel and the threat that Western countries or at least Christian "Zionists" in those countries would turn against Israel reinforces the suspicion held by some, that Christian Zionists have a hidden or not-so-hidden agenda.
 He cannot understand why, in a democratic society, missionaries should not be able to pursue their self-imposed task and their duty as they see it to convert the heathen to their way of thinking and to bring the "light" to the Jewish people. He does not understand that, while one can be a French Moslem or a British Jew, one cannot be a Jewish Christian.
 During the 2,000 years of Christianity throughout Europe and from time to time in Central and South America, Jews have experienced expulsions, murder, rape, torture, forced baptism and ordinary plain hatred. They have been forced to wear special clothing and special badges, live in ghettos and be barred from various trades and professions in the name of the Christian religion.
 Mr. Goodenough truly cannot see or understand the shuddering revulsion induced in many Jews by missionary activity. He must be made aware of the anguish and fear felt by so many Jews at the activities of missionaries. The threat that he makes that the ban on missionary activity will turn Christian "Zionists" against us holds no terror to a people that has endured so much hatred and persecution and murder over the years of Christian "love." If the attitude of Christian Zionists is conditional upon us accepting their desires for the Jewish people, spare us from our "friends," we can deal with our honest enemies.
 BEN SHUA
 Jerusalem.
- EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE**
 Sir - Why does the government wave off the extremely grave threat of earthquakes with the statement, "there is not enough trained manpower and insufficient funds"? This is nonsense, as thousands of engineers are immediately available due to a slowdown in the construction industry.
 In every developed country of the world, the prevention of earthquake damage starts at the very inception of the project. There is a standardized building code, to which plans drawn by designers must comply. The government reviews the plans and only issues a building permit when the plans are found to be in compliance. There is regular building inspection by government inspectors during construction as well as tough licensing of contractors. Contractors are required to put up performance bonds to insure compliance with the specifications. Unlicensed contractors are subject to jail and fines. The workers are trained through apprenticeship programs in develop skills to produce a high-quality product. Most important is that this entire program casts the government nothing, as it is completely funded through fees paid by the developers and contractors who they apply for building permits.
 The City of Los Angeles, as an example, has all these measures in place and survived a massive earthquake in 1994 to good shape. Unfortunately, in Israel, the recent swarm of "mid" earthquakes are warnings which our government has chosen to ignore.
 IRA BRAVERMAN, P.E.,
 Registered Civil Engineer
 Jerusalem.
- EMPTY THREATS**
 Sir - Arafat must have had yet another laugh when he told Mr. Netanyahu's latest declaration: "Israel cannot ignore the killing of Arab residents of Jerusalem, just as it cannot look away from an explosion in a Tel-Aviv cafe" (June 3).
 The prime minister's consistent failure to follow up with promised action dire warnings which he repeatedly issues, is not only a disgrace; it has totally undermined the credibility of the government which he heads.
 BEN SHUA
 Jerusalem.

Crooks & books

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

The suspicion that Gregory Lerner (aka Zvi Ben-Ari) tried to bribe his way into the good graces of several Israeli political parties - and apparently contributed indirectly to Yisrael B'Aliya when it was first founded - should set off a warning bell in the ears of all those concerned about our democracy.

Part of the problem is the way our parties are financed, plus the fact that most of them suffer from a chronic shortage of funds.

allocation. It is hardly a secret that Labor circumvented the Parties Financing Law for years by using the Histadrut to finance many of its activities.

Shas also learned to increase its finances by manipulating accounts and shifting funds intended for educational and social purposes to political ones.

In both parties, institutional corruption occasionally took on a personal dimension, in Labor notably after the primaries system was introduced.

Who is to say that tomorrow a willer Gregory Lerner will not succeed where this one failed?

Both the Parties Financing Law and the Parties Law impose strict limitations on how and from whom parties may get their money.

Before last year's elections, Labor first looked into the legality of Lerner's offer of free time for the party on a Russian-language TV station, then turned the offer down flat. This shows that when parties remain on their guard and resort to good legal advice, the law functions as it is meant to.

Equally (as apparently happened with Yisrael B'Aliya) a party's motives may be fly-white, but that doesn't help, if the party is inexperienced, it can get into hot water.

To complicate matters, the purity of our parties' motives cannot be taken for granted, nor their regard for the spirit and letter of the law.

Of course there is nothing new about parties using devious means to obtain financing over and above their (increasingly generous) state

BUT the Lerner phenomenon is totally different in nature and magnitude.

This was no case of parties taking funds from economic or social institutions attached to them and diverting these funds to where they were likely to serve broad groups of their supporters.

This was the case of a man accused of grave criminal acts, including theft, fraud and murder, seeking to finance political parties, thereby securing personal benefits that would help him continue committing those acts under state auspices.

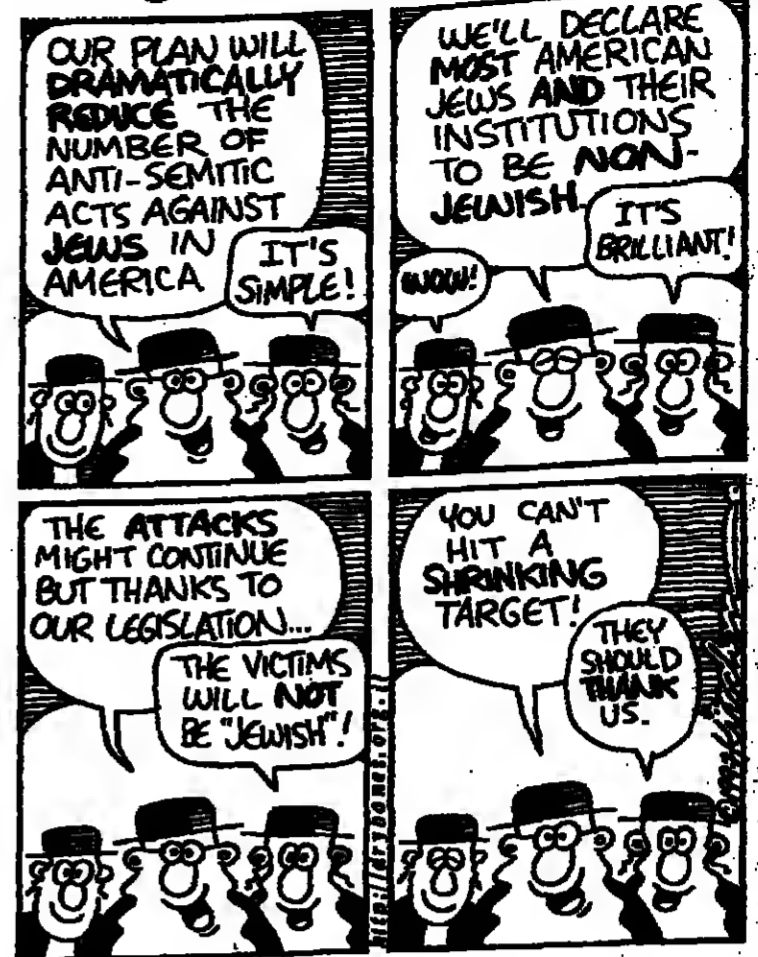
Lerner apparently wasn't clever enough - or the police were clever enough - and it now looks as if Lerner's reign of glory is over.

But who is to say that tomorrow a willer Lerner will not succeed where this one failed?

The scenario in which criminals gain control over a political system, or at least seek refuge from justice within it, is more likely to occur in totalitarian regimes or systems with prevailing anarchy (like Russia today) than in well-ordered democracies.

However, to the extent that ideologies and values diminish and pragmatism and sectoral interests take root, the realization of such a scenario becomes a possibility in democracies, too.

Dry Bones



Twenty years ago, Israel got its first intimation of this kind of danger when the Polish-born Shmuel Flato-Sharon, wanted in France on embezzlement and fraud charges, not only entered the election race to avoid being extradited in France but actually got enough votes for two seats, entered the Knesset and transferred his excess votes to the Likud.

In August 1979 Flato-Sharon's Knesset immunity was lifted so that he could stand trial on election bribery charges. He was found guilty and sent to prison in May 1981; but even though the Knesset House Committee decid-

ed to suspend his Knesset membership, the High Court quashed the suspension!

The Knesset finally got rid of this man only when he ran again in the following elections and failed to pass the 1 percent threshold.

In the Knesset plenum Flato-Sharon would read out his speeches from texts written in Latin letters. No one ever took him seriously.

But for all that he was a crook, just as Gregory Lerner is a crook. Our political system should be immunized against the likes of them.

The writer is a political scientist.

A possibly permanent blight

REUVEN HAMMER

As we near the June 30 deadline set by the High Court for hearing the case brought before it by the Masorti (Conservative) Movement, Na'amat, and the parents of converted children, the politicians' rhetoric heats up.

The representatives of the religious parties have threatened to quit the coalition unless the conversion bill is passed; and although compromises have been discussed, we are still waiting for some official, concrete proposal that would obviate the need for a court case and satisfy both the Masorti Movement and the religious parties.

The movement will be satisfied with nothing less than a method to ensure that nur converts converted in Israel are recognized by the Interior Ministry and entitled to the same rights as our converts from abroad.

What will satisfy the religious parties is by no means clear. It is obvious that what they really want is to cancel recognition of nur conversions, no matter where they have been performed. Fortunately, the coalition is not willing to grant them that.

Prime Minister Netanyahu has repeated his statement that all the upheaval was caused not by the religious parties, but by the Masorti Movement and Na'amat's bringing the court case.

In so doing, we are trying to "change the status quo." The religious parties thus have no choice but to act as they are doing.

We all know that the "status quo" is invoked only when the issue is changing something the religious parties do not want changed, and never when it is a question of their attempts to impose new legislation and new restrictions.

For example, the fact that the ministry has recently refused to register converts from abroad - thus changing its policy of many years - is not considered a breach of the status quo.

What exactly is the court case we never should have brought? It is a case against the government for refusing to register as Jews adopted children and infants converted according to Jewish law by the Masorti rabbinical court.

For years the Chief Rabbinate has refused to convert children adopted by parents who are not considered "religious," creating a de facto situation in which only Orthodox people can adopt children in Israel.

In the face of this refusal, these parents turned to us, wanting to raise their children as Jews, pledging to educate them as Jews, and we converted them. The Ministry

of the Interior then refused to register them as Jews, even though there is no legislation to prevent it.

OUR contention is that the law requires these children be registered. Such was our terrible sin in bringing this case to court.

And the court will decide who is right - the Masorti Movement, Na'amat and the parents, or the Interior Ministry.

Once again, the victim has been castigated for demanding his legal rights - to say nothing of justice and righteousness.

And once again the representatives of the religious parties are raising the specter of mass conversion of foreign workers as the reason for needing this law.

Do they honestly believe that the moment nur conversions are recognized we will convert 40,000 Rumanian workers who have no desire to be Jewish but only want to stay here and work? I challenge anyone to cite a single instance of such conversions by our bet din.

The integrity of our rabbinical court is above reproach. It is not the people associated with our court who have been accused of

taking bribes.

It is unfortunate that the impetus to find a compromise solution has come solely from the well-justified fear that this bill is dividing the Jewish people, and causing a rift between Israel and Diaspora Jewry.

Anyone could have known that that would happen. There was no way Diaspora Jewry could have accepted this bill with equanimity.

But there is more to it than that. Amid the hue and cry for "unity," we should not forget that the real reasons for opposing this bill are to be found in the bill itself.

Granting a government monopoly to one group within Judaism, further strengthening religious coercion in Israel is matter enough. So is perpetuating a system that discriminates against those wishing to convert and against adoptive parents, one that places impossible obstacles in the way of Russian immigrants married to Jews, or children of Jewish fathers who want to become Jews.

This bill, its potential effects, and the motivation to pass it are all rotten to the core.

Should it pass its second and third Knesset readings it will not only divide the Jewish people; it will leave a stain on Israel's democracy that will be difficult, perhaps impossible, to erase.

The writer is the head of the Rabbinical Court for Conversion of the Rabbinical Assembly of Israel.

The unbelievable case of Amal

SHARON SHENHAV

As the prime minister was announcing his recent NIS 1.5 million campaign to raise awareness of domestic violence and encourage abused women to turn to the authorities, a young Beduin girl was being sentenced by the Beersheba District Court to nine months in prison for stabbing her abusive husband.

The story behind this case highlights one of the problems of domestic violence in Israel - the desperation, and often aloneness, of the victims. It also opens a questioning finger at the authorities.

After her father died, Amal - a pseudonym, since the girl is a minor - was made the ward of a male family member (her mother is mentally ill). Amal's guardian proceeded to arrange a marriage for her, despite her adamant opposition.

Determined to prevent the marriage, Amal notified the welfare authorities, who reported the guardian's plan to the police. Amal's guardian apparently did not care that Israeli law prohibits the marriage of a girl under 17, and that it provides criminal sanctions for anyone arranging such a marriage.

Amal did everything open to her. She contacted the social workers and the police. But the system let her down. Despite her

appeals to all the right channels, the marriage went ahead.

For all the good it did Amal, the law against child marriage might just as well have not existed.

Trapped in an unwanted and illegal marriage, Amal was victimized yet again. She was locked in her room, brutally beaten and repeatedly raped by her husband.

Yet, incredibly, this girl, only 16

attempts to notify authorities of her plight and seek their help. Amal tried to use the law to solve her terrible problem. The law, in effect, turned its back.

SOCIETY cannot allow victims to take the law into their own hands. Violence cannot go unpunished. But when the system fails, when government officials do not pro-

damage she suffered.

One wonders: Would the police and social workers have responded differently had they known that their failure to protect this young girl might cost them money?

Amal's lawyer is currently appealing the court's verdict. Perhaps punishment should be reduced (or totally eliminated) in cases where a victim, ignored by the authorities, defends herself by attacking her abuser?

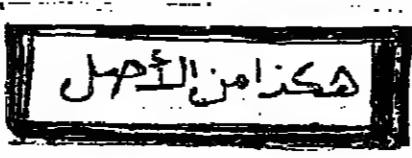
Enforcement does not exist separate from the law. It is integral to maintaining it. Unenforced, the very best legislation isn't worth the paper it's written on.

Desperate victims of violence need more than slogans like "Together we'll end domestic violence." They need the protection of the law.

Over and above publicity campaigns, the government should be increasing its support of services like Na'amat's new shelter and counseling center in Tel Aviv, which provides a safe haven and professional counseling to victims of family violence.

If it doesn't, we can expect more tragic cases like Amal's.

The writer, former director of legal services for Na'amat in Jerusalem, currently directs the organization's Overseas Department.

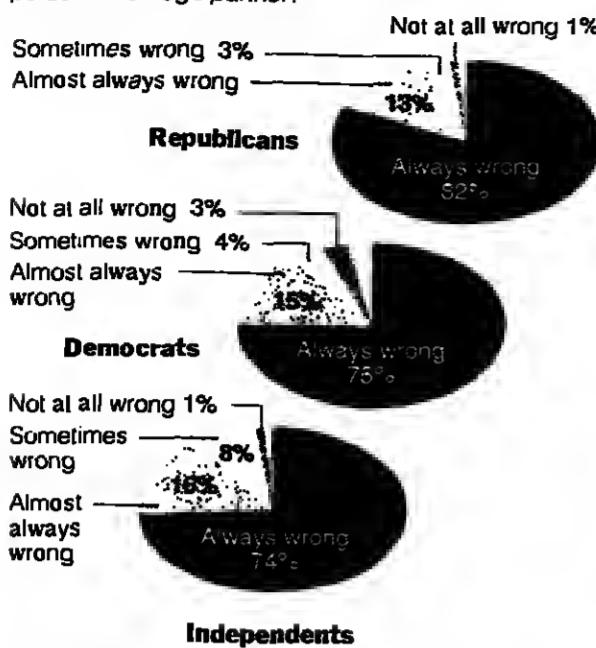


The Nation

Suddenly, the New Politics of Morality

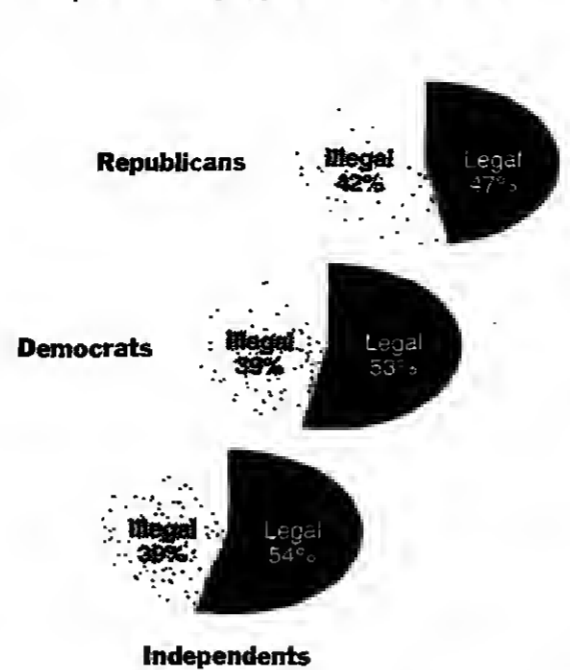
Where the Public Stands

What is your opinion about a married person having sexual relations with someone other than the person's marriage partner?



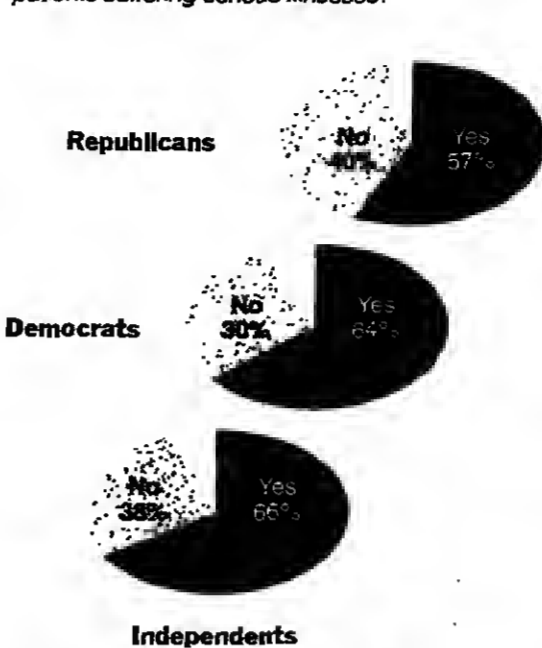
Based on a 1996 national telephone poll conducted by the National Opinion Research Center.

Do you think it should be legal or illegal for a doctor to help a terminally ill patient commit suicide?



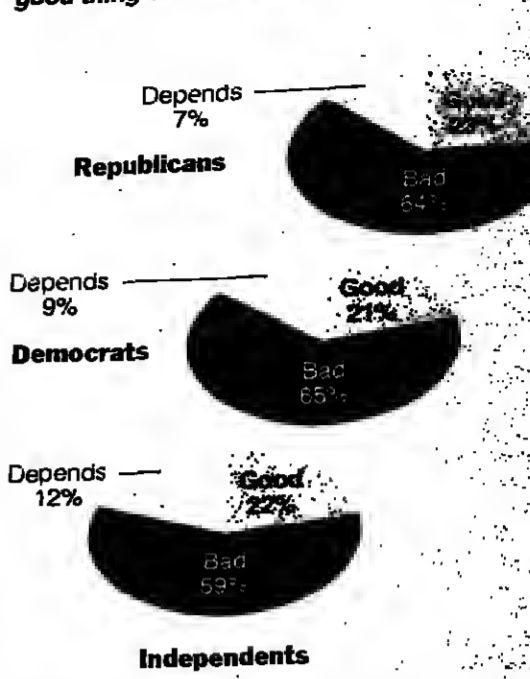
Based on a 1996 national telephone poll conducted by The Washington Post.

Do you think doctors should be allowed to prescribe small amounts of marijuana for patients suffering serious illnesses?



Based on a 1997 national telephone poll conducted by CBS News.

From what you know, do you think cloning is a good thing or a bad thing?



Based on a 1997 national telephone poll conducted for NBC News and The Wall Street Journal.

By RICHARD L. BERKE

WANT to see a politician really hem and haw? Show up at his or her next town meeting and ask about the issues now dominating American public discourse: Should adultery be tolerated in the military? Should cloning be banned or encouraged? Should doctors be allowed to help terminally ill patients commit suicide?

Most politicians do not have well-thought-out answers to these questions. The political parties certainly don't. Democratic or Republican position papers on adultery? Highly doubtful. Politicians are at a loss in part because mixing the moral and the political has always been perilous. Such issues do not fit comfortably in the political arena because views on them are so subjective and personal that they defy ideological categorization. And politicians have had little practice debating morality without the templates of the cold war and economic ideology that until recently shaped political dialogue.

Dan Schnur, a former aide to Gov. Pete Wilson of California, a Republican, said that when politicians weigh in on such issues, "Republicans end up sounding sanctimonious and Democrats end up sounding hypocritical." Remember the firestorm Newt Gingrich caused in 1994 with comments about Susan Smith? He said her drowning of her two children in South Carolina underscored "how sick society is getting," and that "the only way you can get change is to vote Republican."

Abortion is probably the prime illustration of how problematic, and incendiary, moral questions can be. As much as some Republicans trumpet their opposition to abortion, the issue has caused great grief to a party trying to broaden its appeal.

But moral questions are on the political agenda now in part because with the economy soaring there are

fewer old battles to fight. Just last week, the two parties agreed to cut taxes, an issue they've been feuding over for a generation. In addition, the nation is preoccupied with no war or great external threat. And so big cultural issues that people usually only ruminate about at family dinners or with their ministers have been brought to the fore — pushed there by dizzying technological and scientific advances and demographic changes, among other factors. If the parties don't respond to these issues — core concerns for many voters — they risk becoming marginalized and irrelevant.

Increasingly, moral matters are being played out in political forums, and that may force politicians to take positions. Oregon voters will decide in November whether they want their state to be the first to legalize assisted suicide. And last week, President Clinton, addressing an issue rarely if ever dealt with by his predecessors, called for a ban on the cloning of human beings. But he was more ambiguous about the cloning of animals and certain human genes for research.

Such issues could challenge the parties to redefine themselves. "When an election is about health care or the state of the economy you just get a very different set of alliances than if it is about the right to die or gays in the military," said Byron E. Shafer, a professor of American Government at Oxford University. "The public has a harder time making sense out of politics: If I knew your position on the war on poverty, I would have no idea what your position was on the right to die. If I knew how you felt about union regulation, I wouldn't have a clue how you felt about cloning."

What's My Party Line?

You can make an educated guess as to the likely partisan positions on such issues. You might surmise, for instance, that Republicans, who fashion themselves as the party of the traditional family, would most strongly condemn adultery, especially in the military. But just the

other day there was Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi, the majority leader, defending First Lieut. Kelly Flinn, the Air Force pilot who was forced out of the military last month after confessing that she had lied to commanders about her affair with a married man. And conservative groups were noticeably silent on Gen. Joseph W. Ralston, who removed his name last week from consideration as chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff because he committed adultery years ago. Only women's groups, more closely identified with Democratic politics, spoke out against the General.

"How do parties use these issues to their advantage?" said Celinda Lake, a Democratic pollster. "It's

Your feelings about welfare offer no clue to where you stand on cloning.

not easy because the bases of both parties have very strong feelings about these issues that are muddled for most Americans."

Such a predicament was on display last year in California, where most candidates stayed clear of a referendum on medicinal use of marijuana, which voters approved. The only ones who raised the issue were local politicians who used it to play to their bases in overwhelmingly partisan areas: Democrats in liberal San Francisco could afford to play up their support for medicinal marijuana, while Republicans in conservative Orange County could score politically by emphasizing their opposition. But the issue was too controversial to be taken up by candidates running statewide. Maybe the newly emerged issues will eventually

break along party lines. Perhaps, in time, Democrats will see the "right to die" issue as a matter of basic civil rights, while most Republicans will condemn assisted suicide as violating basic American values.

Then again, such issues may never find a partisan cast. The notion of cloning seems to frighten Democrats and Republicans alike. And which party is about to endorse adultery? On the other hand, perhaps adulterers' right to privacy can be defended. But by whom?

Polls show that on a range of such moral and cultural matters, voters are divided not by party but, if anything, by factors like religion and the region in which one lives. (An exception: far more Democrats than Republicans condone same-sex marriages.) Voters may also be torn over the role of Government in these matters: as much as voters may oppose physician-assisted suicide, they may also resent the idea of Government telling them when they can pull the plug.

William J. Bennett, the Republican values guru, said that while many of the moral issues are not partisan, the parties cannot afford to ignore them. "These are issues that hit people where they live," he said, warning that politicians "are going to be asked where they stand," and they will need good answers.

The proper character of American life has been hotly debated before in American history, and the test of a party is how well it can respond to a new issue. The Whig Party, for instance, collapsed from internal turmoil over how to address slavery. In the 1920's, issues like prohibition and the Scopes evolution trial were at the forefront of politics.

Ben J. Wattenberg, a conservative writer, argues that the moral issues that now preoccupy the public have no place in American politics. "There is going to be adultery in the United States of America," he said, "and there's not a whole lot the Government can do about it."

Maybe. But when has the inability of Government to do something stifled a politician from speaking out?

Pleading Circumstances

Tell It to the Jury: The Killer Is Not a Demon

By KEVIN SACK

IN a courtroom in Denver last week, defense attorneys portrayed Timothy J. McVeigh as a carefree youngster and dutiful soldier whose patriotism was transformed into something unpredictably dark by the billowing fires of Waco.

Across the country in Trenton, lawyers for the sex-murderer Jesse K. Timmendequas spent the week depicting their client as the product of a horrific childhood marked by rape, incest, alcoholism and deprivation.

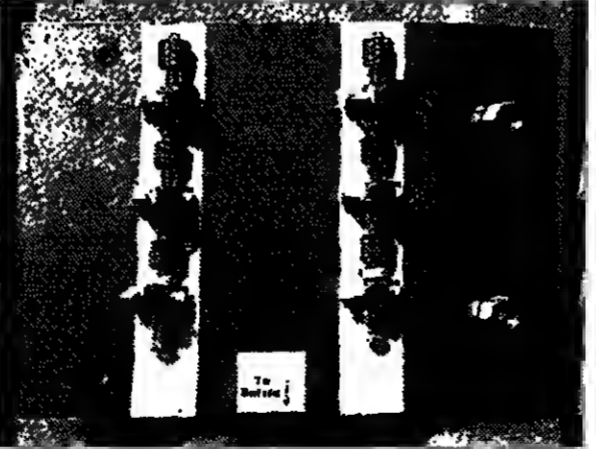
The two tales could not have been more different, but the legal strategy behind their telling was the same. In both cases, lawyers hoped to convince jurors that the murderous behavior of their clients was influenced by external forces: the Government's abuse of power in one instance, a parent's abuse in the other.

In the jargon of the courtroom, these are mitigating circumstances. Their purpose is not to excuse a killer's actions but to explain them, and to humanize the defendant in the process. As Mr. McVeigh's lawyer Stephen Jones asserted in his closing argument Thursday, the aim is to show that the defendant "is not a demon, though surely his act was demonic."

The next day, the jurors turned away that desperate attempt to spare Mr. McVeigh's life. And their decision to return a death sentence illustrates what defense lawyers say are the most and least effective strategies for presenting mitigating evidence.

What works is testimony that leads jurors to understand the psychological, emotional and cultural factors that may have compromised a killer's values. Because Mr. McVeigh's childhood apparently was quite normal, his lawyers were left to argue that his judgment was clouded by anti-government politics. And Mr. McVeigh did nothing during the trial to accept responsibility or show remorse, which lawyers say can move a jury to compassion. His lawyers tried a tactic that almost never works — shifting the blame. "While you always point to external forces, you never want to say it's something else's fault," said Bryan A. Stevenson, director of the Equal Justice Initiative, a nonprofit group in Montgomery, Ala., that represents death penalty defendants. "You just want the jury to appreciate that each of us is more than the worst thing we've ever done."

Once a jury returns a first-degree murder conviction, mitigating circumstances are virtually the only tools available to spare a defendant. Ruling in the late 1970's and early 1980's, the Supreme Court made it clear that juries in capital cases have to hear evidence that



Lethal injection flows from one of three intravenous tubes at San Quentin, at left, and the Federal prison death chamber in Terre Haute, Ind., nearest Oklahoma.



may mitigate against the death penalty.

This evidence is also crucial, argues Craig Haney, a professor of psychology at the University of California at Santa Cruz, in countering one-dimensional media images of murderers as the incarnation of evil, like Hannibal Lecter in "Silence of the Lambs." "There is almost always a direct correlation between the horror of the crime and the horror of the life," Mr. Haney said. Prosecutors, not surprisingly, are skeptical. "If you buy that, then you buy that there is no accountability, that everybody can find somebody else to blame for their actions," said District Attorney Thomas Charron of Cobb County, Ga., who has tried 40 capital cases.

Mitigating evidence is intended to force jurors to take the full measure of a defendant's life. It takes juries beyond narrow issues of evidence to struggle with broader questions of philosophy, psychology and mercy. While each death penalty state, and the Federal Government, has its own laws governing capital punishment, each has a process that allows the defense broad leeway in presenting mitigating circumstances.

Typically, a distinct sentencing phase of the trial is held after a jury convicts a defendant of first-degree murder. In order for a jury to impose the death penalty, it first must find at least one statutorily defined aggravating circumstance, like the commission of murder in the course of another felony. Then it must unanimously determine that the aggravating circumstances outweigh the mitigating circumstances. Statutes in many

states specify a number of mitigating circumstances, like the presence of "extreme emotional disturbance" or the lack of a previous criminal record. But they do not restrict the kind of evidence the defense can introduce.

Defense lawyers say vigorous presentation of mitigating evidence can make a big difference. In 1977, a jury in Columbus, Ga., sentenced William Anthony Brooks to death for the rape and murder of a young woman after hearing mitigating testimony only from Mr. Brooks' mother and two sisters. Eight years later, his conviction was reversed on another ground. In a new trial, a new lawyer, Stephen B. Bright, called 15 witnesses who presented vivid testimony about Mr. Brooks' abuse as a child. The jury imposed a life sentence.

Childhood Stories

In Mr. Timmendequas's trial, his lawyers sought to link his 1994 murder and sexual assault of 7-year-old Megan Kanka to their claims that he was sexually abused as a child by his father. They elicited testimony about a mother who bore 10 children by seven men, and about a father who once slaughtered Mr. Timmendequas's pet rabbit and then forced his children to eat it.

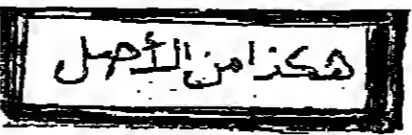
The case presented by Mr. McVeigh's lawyers was less conventional. Rarely does the defense spin a tale of normalcy, of the well-adjusted country boy who always greeted his godmother with a hug and who impressed Army superiors with his discipline and drive.

But that foundation was necessary to demonstrate the stark change in Mr. McVeigh ostensibly brought on by the attack by Federal agents on the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Tex., on April 19, 1993. It was in anger at the Government, the defense suggested, that Mr. McVeigh bombed the Federal Building in Oklahoma City exactly two years later, killing 168 people.

Among the mitigating factors jurors weighed, they unanimously accepted that Mr. McVeigh believed the Federal government was responsible for deaths at Waco. But they unanimously rejected the idea that he is "a good and loyal friend" and believed deeply in fundamental American ideals.

In discussing Waco, one of Mr. McVeigh's lawyers, Richard Burr, also told the jurors, "We all bear some responsibility for Oklahoma City," a statement denounced by many as outrageous. And in acknowledging Mr. McVeigh's "demonic" act, Mr. Jones effectively admitted culpability that he had denied during the guilt phase of the trial. Mr. Jones's statement was as close as the defense came to presenting what many lawyers believe is the most important of all mitigating circumstances: remorse.

"If you don't have remorse for taking another person's life, the jury's going to see you as an animal," said David B. Freedman, a North Carolina lawyer who represented defendants in six death penalty cases. "And they're not going to have any problem taking the life of an animal."



THE JERUSALEM POST

The Nation

A Rose-Colored View of Race



Jonathan Levin's slaying is, so far, a case free of racial enmity. A Taft High School student holds a front-page picture of the teacher.

BY STEVEN A. HOLMES

EIGHT years ago, a 29-year-old white woman jogging at night in New York's Central Park was chased, down, beaten and raped by seven black and Hispanic youths. Their arrests, trials and convictions brought a torrent of invective and hand-wringing over the state of race relations in the city. Supporters of the suspects charged that the case had been trumped up by a racist criminal justice system determined to convict African American and Hispanic youths.

This month, two young black men were charged with robbing and murdering Jonathan Levin, a white teacher at a predominantly black and Hispanic high school in the Bronx. The reaction so far from black politicians and civic leaders to this potentially racially charged case has been silence. The responses to the two cases go beyond questions of evidence or police conduct. The differences seem to reflect the general change of racial climate; not only in New York but across the country. After years of accusations exchanged — racism, anti-Semitism, insensitivity, laziness, bigotry, arrogance or just plain bad manners — a curious new element seems to have descended over America's roiling racial landscape: Peace.

It is a tranquility that seems more relative than absolute, possibly more temporary than enduring, and largely grounded in resignation rather than reconciliation. Still, as President Clinton addressed the nation yesterday about the state of race relations, there is evidence that he chose a moment far calmer than just a few years ago. "This is a good time for a lot of people," said Michael Meyers, head of the New York Civil Rights Commission. "You can't argue against the facts. We have made a whole lot of progress in race relations, and we have to acknowledge that."

Satisfaction

For now, no cities are burning. No divisive events like the O. J. Simpson trial are preoccupying Americans. Among African-Americans overall, income, life expectancy and employment have been rising. Figures like Colin Powell, Oprah Winfrey, Michael Jordan and Tiger Woods are idolized by whites, blacks, Hispanics and Asians alike. A Gallup poll released last week showed remarkably high levels of satisfaction among blacks and tolerance among whites. In some ways the climate makes Mr. Clinton's appeal for racial healing, while important, sound oddly out of sync. "Typical speaking, Presidents talk about the race question in times of a real, overt, no question-about-it civil strife type of emergency," said Randall Kennedy, a professor at Harvard

Law School. "This is not that moment."

But if peace abounds, it is also fraught with paradoxes, and the pessimists have fodder of their own. Unemployment rates in the poorest neighborhoods have barely budged. Disparities in the quality of education persist. Hispanic people, especially, are losing ground. As more blacks move into the middle class and their contacts with whites increase, their doubts that racial harmony can be achieved have only grown. And many blacks are quietly seething over the scaling back of affirmative action programs.

"The climate feels like one of retrenchment, and quite possibly quite severe retrenchment in terms of civil rights," said Lawrence Bobo, a professor of sociology at the University of California at Los Angeles.

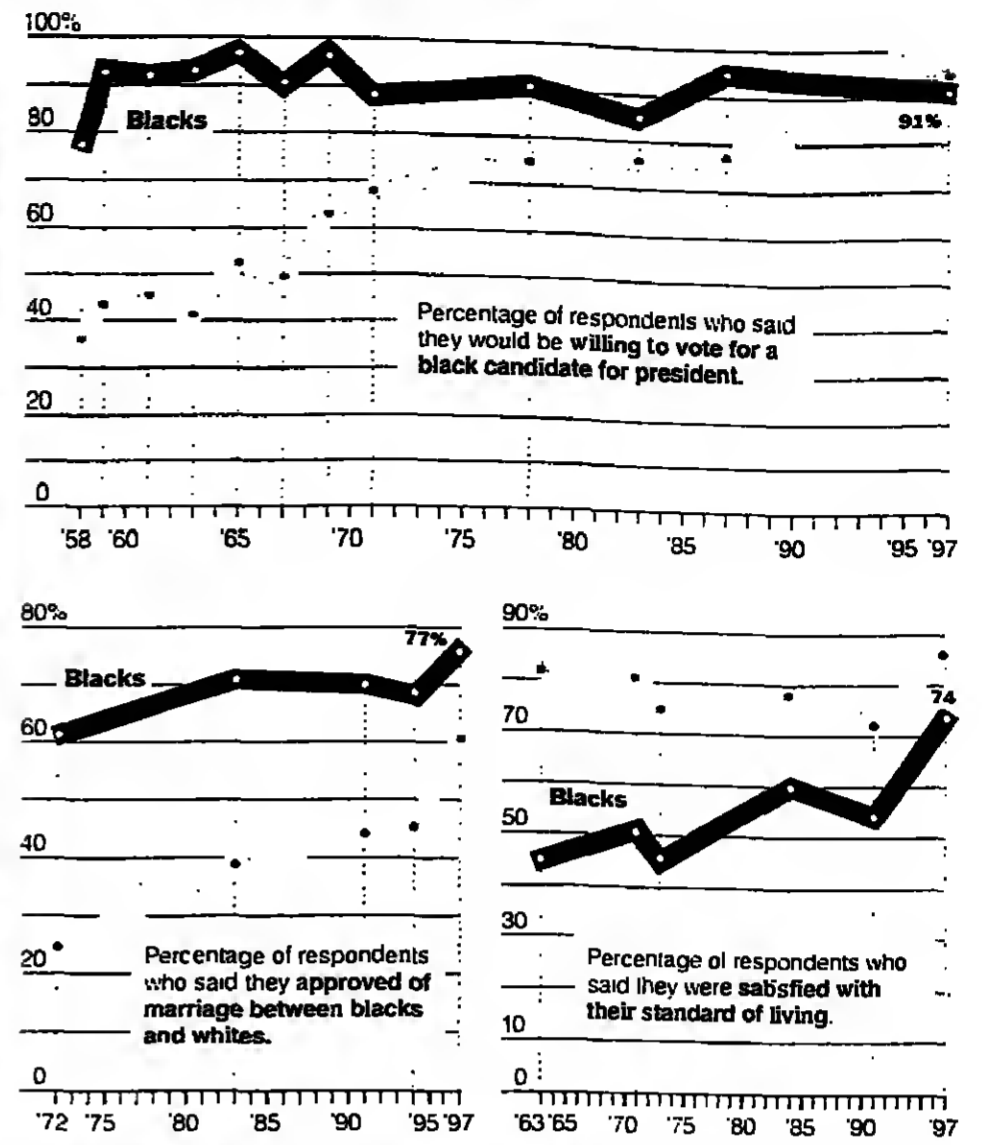
As James Carville or Karl Marx would not doubt say if asked the underlying reason for the placid face of race relations: it's the economy, stupid. Indeed, the jobless rate among blacks, while still twice that of whites, has hovered around 10 percent since 1994, the longest period of sustained relatively low black unemployment in 20 years.

"A lot of ordinary folks are benefiting tremendously from one of the best economies we have had in memory," said Milton Morris, former vice president of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, which studies race-related issues. "And the black community is benefiting substantially from that."

In these good times, blacks are expressing

Hopeful Signs

A new national survey revealed widespread pessimism among Americans on race relations, but there was cause for optimism, especially when the responses to some questions were compared with results from earlier polls.



Based on national polls conducted by the Gallup Organization. The most recent poll was conducted by telephone Jan. 4-Feb. 28 with 1,269 blacks and 1,680 whites.

The New York Times

satisfaction with their circumstances that belies the gloom-and-doom scenarios often sketched by leaders of liberal civil rights groups. In the far-reaching poll by the Gallup Organization, 74 percent of black respondents said they were satisfied both with the way things were going in their personal lives and with their standard of living.

Voting and Marriage

The Gallup poll also pointed to levels of acceptance and tolerance among whites that are unprecedented. In the survey, 93 percent of whites — a higher percentage than African-Americans — said they would be willing to vote for a black candidate for President. And 61 percent of whites said they approved of interracial marriages, the highest level since the polling firm began asking this question in 1972 — when only 25 percent of whites were approving.

Some skeptics scoff that these findings are the result of people parroting what they think an interviewer wants to hear. But there are other measures of acceptance: five African-Americans won re-election to the House last year in majority white districts, for example, after the Supreme Court invalidated their old districts, which had been deliberately drawn

to create black majorities.

Still, there are some underlying reasons for the relative calm that do not necessarily augur well for the future. One is the demoralized and disorganized state of liberal civil rights groups, which have failed to rally opposition to a conservative tide that is reshaping public policy in three areas that are racial flash points: crime, welfare and affirmative action.

"They're winning," said Mr. Meyers. "They've cut welfare. They're tough on crime, and affirmative action is out the window. Of course things are quiet."

Perhaps most worrisome in the poll was the finding that even if things are relatively good on the racial front, whites and blacks do not feel they will get much better. Fifty-eight percent of the whites and 54 percent of black respondents said they felt race relations will always be a problem in this country; in 1963, 44 percent of whites and 26 percent of blacks held that view. Such a finding may indicate that as the nation approaches the end of the century what remains apparent, to paraphrase the Kerner Commission in its report almost 30 years ago, is two societies, still separate, still unequal, and, if bappler with their lot, more than ever feeling that things are about as good as they're going to get.

Freewheeling Freedom

Appalled by Risk, Except in the Car

By MATTHEW L. WALD

FROM Ajar on apples to cyanide in Chilean grapes to flammable cargo in the holds of airplanes, the question about risk is often: how much should be imposed on people?

Here's a tougher one: how much risk should people be allowed to impose on themselves? The answer seems to be: the sky's the limit as long as it involves their cars.

Cars are a prime American symbol of personal freedom, and politicians propose limits on them at their peril. Last week the National Transportation Safety Board recommended that states toughen laws to insure seat-belt use and keep children out of the front seat. The issue isn't safety versus money: Unlike new equipment for planes, buckling up or putting a child in the back is free. The issue is safety versus freedom.

Take, for example, current law regarding seat belts, which cut the risk of death almost in half. Although the Government has required them in cars since the early 1970's — 49 states require their use — 36 states forbid the police to stop drivers just because they or front-seat passengers are unbelted. The officer must first see what is considered a more serious violation, like a burned-out tail light.

In many states the only law that police cannot routinely enforce is the seat belt law. Legislatures debate every year whether to strengthen their laws. Only the most compelling events move them to act. In Oklahoma this year, a bill toughening requirements for children under 18 seemed destined for defeat again until mid-May, when a hospital trauma nurse testified that when a hospital nurse testified that she had flown on a helicopter to the scene of a two-car accident. Even before landing, she saw that two unbelted people had been thrown from one of the cars. The nurse rushed to one victim and, finding him dead, she headed for the other. She immediately recognized the child by his shoes. It was her son, also killed in the crash.

Her story shocked the legislature into changing state law. But in Illinois, where the death toll from not wearing seat belts was similar but there was no such dramatic tale,



Woody Allen gazes as Tony Roberts shields himself from the sun in "Annie Hall."

politicians voted down a bill last month.

And just as the states do not dictate to people what they may do in the sacred precincts of their cars, they also do not tell them how to handle their children there. They all require baby seats. But the laws governing older children are a muddle and in many states weak and weakly enforced. "Parents who let their kids go around inside a car unbelted, well, it borders on child abuse," said R. David Pittle, vice president and technical director of Consumers Union, which publishes Consumer Reports. "It's like letting a kid play in traffic. It's about that irresponsible."

But it happens all the time.

A Free Lunch

The dichotomy between risks that are imposed and those for which individuals volunteer became clear last week, when the Federal Aviation Administration, responding to last year's ValuJet crash, proposed a rule to make airlines install smoke detectors and fire suppression systems in the cargo holds of 3,700 jets at a cost of up to \$75,000 each. The airline industry asked for the rule, even though its officials say the chance of a fire in such holds is about 1 for every 40 million departures. They wanted uniform regulation on an issue of considerable public anxiety.

On the other hand, a member of the National Transportation Safety Board complained that every day highway deaths equal the 110 killed in the ValuJet crash. One quarter would be saved if all wore seat belts,

he said, and it costs nothing.

In fact, it is less a free lunch than it is a lunch the public would be paid to eat. If the amount of people wearing belts rose to 85 percent from the current 68 percent, according to the safety board, 4,200 fewer people would die yearly. Society would save \$7 billion in medical and other costs; of that the Federal treasury would save \$1 billion.

Surely, a policy wonk would have figured out by now that there are better uses for \$1 billion than failing to enforce seat belt laws. Even libertarians agree. "Since my insurance premiums go up if you behave stupidly, why don't I have a say in your behavior?" said Peter M. VanDoren, an economist at the Cato Institute.

But it's not about money.

It's not about probability, either, because unlike plane crashes, car crashes are probable for most Americans. Most drivers can expect to have more than one. There is 1 crash every 210,000 miles driven, and the average driver covers 13,400 miles a year, which works out to 1 crash every 16 years. Fatalities occur once every 58 million miles, which is the distance that 4,300 average drivers cover in a year. That means that for every 100 people you know, one is likely to be involved in a fatal car crash.

But Americans do not think that cars are so dangerous that their behavior needs to be regulated. "Americans seem to be most libertarian, if you will, about their cars," said Mr. VanDoren. The car, he said, is "the late 20th-century incarnation of the Wild West frontier."

See How Washington Uses Dick and Jane

Continued From Page 1

programs in general."

Mr. Horn, who was chief of the Children's Bureau in the Bush Administration, added: "A cynic would say that children are being used as props or as proxies. But there is also a genuine concern for children. Poor children live in poor families."

Martha A. Matthews, director of Stanford Law School's family advocacy program, said: "Politicians on the left and the right play children as a card. This is perhaps a mix of sincere concern and political strategy. Poor children are a lot more popular in the public mind than poor adults because they can't be blamed for their condition."

"The left tends to use the symbolism of children to get political clout that we wouldn't otherwise have," she said. "If you're trying to raise standards for safety and decency in housing, you use a photo of a tiny kid in a rat-infested tenement, rather than a photo of a 40-year-old adult."

Debate over the welfare bill last year was couched almost entirely in terms of its effects on children. Few lawmakers or lobbyists spoke up for the parents who would lose cash assistance, food stamps, Medicaid and other benefits.

The emphasis on children as an especially vulnerable group comes even as public health experts and Government officials cite favorable trends. Infant mortality is declining, childhood immunization is rising, child-support collections are up and the teen birth rate is down.

But teen-age drug use is rising, and many parents have a sense that children are under siege, subjected to violence on the streets and to sex and violence on television. "Everywhere we look, children are under assault," Hillary Rodham Clinton, a former chairwoman of the Children's Defense Fund, wrote in her book "It Takes a Village." And so politics sometimes seem to revolve around children, as shown by these initiatives:

• Stymied in his effort to guarantee health insurance for all Americans, President Clinton is now working with Congress to guarantee coverage for children.

• The campaign against smoking has

moved beyond restaurants and the workplace to focus on children, as the Clinton Administration tries to halt the sale and advertising of tobacco products to minors. Leaders of the campaign say that smokers are hooked on tobacco as children, and so a new tobacco tax is justified to finance health insurance for children.

• Opponents of abortion, hoping to answer the accusation that they are intruding into women's lives, say they are trying to protect "preborn children."

• In April, President Clinton signed an executive order telling Federal agencies to protect children from "environmental health risks and safety risks." Children's small size and their developing bodies make them particularly vulnerable to contaminants, he said.

• The White House held a conference on early childhood development to highlight new research on the brain. One lesson is that neural connections formed in the first two years of life establish the foundation for rational thinking and problem-solving skills, vital to success in later life.

Why has there been so much emphasis on children and childhood?

Philippe Ariès, a cultural historian, analyzed the concept in a 1960 book, "Centuries of Childhood." "In medieval society," he said, "the idea of childhood did not exist." Until about the 12th century, he asserted, medieval artists portrayed children in neither realistic nor idealized ways, but simply as "small-scale adults."

Freud, by contrast, saw childhood as the most important stage of life and traced the neuroses of adults to their experiences as children. Psychological researchers are still elaborating on his insights.

Politicians have cited those findings to argue for more money for Head Start, child care and nutrition programs. But it is not just new understanding that explains the fixation on children. The narcissism of baby boomers is a factor.

"The baby boom generation is having kids," Dr. Horn said. "When baby boomers were in their 20's, they focused on themselves. Now that they're in their 40's, they are focusing on their children. They want things to be better for their kids. What baby boomers want, they get."

Ideas & Trends

Concealing a Pregnancy To Avoid Telling Mom

By KATHARINE Q. SEELYE

IF parents, and mothers in particular, haven't been blamed for enough of their children's problems, there is yet another accusation against them: One of the most common reasons some young women hide their pregnancies for nine months is that they are afraid to tell their mothers.

Officials have not discussed publicly the circumstances of 18-year-old Melissa Drexler, who last week attended her senior prom in New Jersey, gave birth in the bathroom and returned to the dance, leaving a maid to find the dead baby boy in the trash. Or the circumstances of a 19-year-old, also in New Jersey, who last week crept downstairs in the middle of the night and delivered a baby girl in her parents' garage. (She intended to take the baby elsewhere and leave her for adoption before her parents woke up, but she passed out and her father found the baby.)

Cheerleaders, Not Sociopaths

There are no reliable statistics on how often women conceal their pregnancies. But it is common enough that a conference by a group called Post-Partum Support International met last week in Las Vegas to examine, among other topics, what physiological changes may occur in the brain that lead some women to hide their pregnancies and lead some to kill their offspring.

In the limited literature on the subject, teen-agers who hide their pregnancies most commonly point to the very person who gave birth to them in explaining their deception.

"A prominent feature in several of the neonaticides was the inability of the unwed girl to reveal her pregnan-

cy to her mother," wrote Dr. Phillip J. Resnick, a professor of psychiatry at Case Western Reserve Medical School, in his ground-breaking 1970 study of women who kill their newborns.

Dr. Resnick said in an interview that while in many cases the pregnant teen-agers feared both parents, they feared "the mother in particular." While out-of-wedlock births may carry less stigma today than ever, he said, many of these teen-agers are "good girls" who are afraid "that their mother would have so much shock and disapproval that they couldn't bear to face it." At the same time, he cautioned that "some fathers are very strict, and I can see a father being less forgiving."

Dr. Robert Blum, a professor of pediatrics and adolescent health at the University of Minnesota, said that fathers are more peripheral than mothers. "Ask the average 15-year-old what the worst thing is about being pregnant, and she'll say, 'Telling Mom.' Moms are more in the lives of kids," he said.

"It is the fear of rejection, of retribution, of falling in the esteem of your parents," he added. "We spend our lives trying to appease our parents. That is the most important community you will ever have. For a kid who has no other resources, the notion of being rejected by your family is petrifying."

Dr. Margaret Spinelli, director of a maternal mental health program at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, said she found that pregnant teen-agers seemed equally afraid of telling either parent.

In extensive interviews with nine teen-agers who killed their newborns, she found several patterns. Seven of the nine had been sexually or physically abused (by someone outside the family). The girl was usually her father's favorite, excelling in school and earning good grades. "They have no sociopathic traits," she said. "Some are cheerleaders."

But in many cases, there was a complex family



On her prom night, Melissa Drexler, shown arriving with her date, gave birth and left her baby in the trash.

dynamic with a confusion of roles. The mother of the teen-ager was often cold and rejecting, Dr. Spinelli said, and the father "hyper-vigilant and intrusive" in his daughter's life. The girl played something like the role of wife to her father, so that when she became pregnant, she was overwhelmed with guilt that she had betrayed him. And she had to hide this closeness from her mother.

Abused women tend to "compartmentalize" their sexual activity, she said, so when they become pregnant, they block it out as a coping mechanism. "They don't consciously hide it, they dissociate from it," Dr. Spinelli said. "They can go along with an unawareness of their pregnancies, then blame the baby on something like the food they ate."

One pregnant teen-ager was riding in a horse show,

interrupted her ride to go to a secluded stall and deliver her baby, then climbed back on her horse. Another, left in the middle of work to deliver her baby. Dr. Spinelli quoted her as saying, "I was convinced the baby was dead, so I went back to work."

Dr. Resnick explains such seemingly incomprehensible behavior by saying that such a woman does not bond with her infant in utero. "The woman views the infant as foreign, like a peach pit going through her body," he said. Because she doesn't think of herself as pregnant, she makes no preparations, either to care for the infant or kill it. Mostly, he said, the teen-ager fantasizes about a stillbirth so she won't have to do anything. "Then the infant cries," he said, "and there is a need to silence the intruder."

License to Thrill

It Happened One Night. O.K., One Morning.

By EDWARD ROTHSTEIN

IN his memoirs, Benjamin Franklin wrote that he would gladly live life over again, if only he could act like an author preparing a second edition of his book: he should not only be able to fix errors but also modify events, and presumably alter endings. The next best thing to reliving life, Franklin continued, might be recollecting it which, judging from the liberties he took, involved the same sorts of revisions.

In the surge of memoir writing that has been taking place recently, such tinkering with life's details has been even more plentiful — as have objections to casual reworkings of fact. "Locked in the Cabinet" (Knopf), the best-selling memoir by Robert B. Reich, the former Secretary of Labor, was strenuously attacked in a recent issue of the on-line magazine Slate for "fabricating quotations and rewriting history" with its "morality fables." Jonathan Rauch, a contributing editor of The National Journal, cited not just disagreements typical of those inhabiting another person's memoir but jarring differences with the public record.

Another popular book, "The Cliff Walk: A Memoir of a Job Lost and a Life Found" (Little, Brown) by Don J. Snyder, recounts the author's tale of an academic paradise lost (teaching literature at Colgate University) and a countercultural paradise found (becoming a house painter in Maine). Writing in another on-line publication, Salon, Mark Lasswell, a consulting editor of Maxim magazine, attacks Mr. Snyder for distorting his job history and his current activities to score political points in his portrait of a bankrupt American dream.

But not only the new media are skeptical of print proclamations. Traditional media have also raised questions about the proportions of

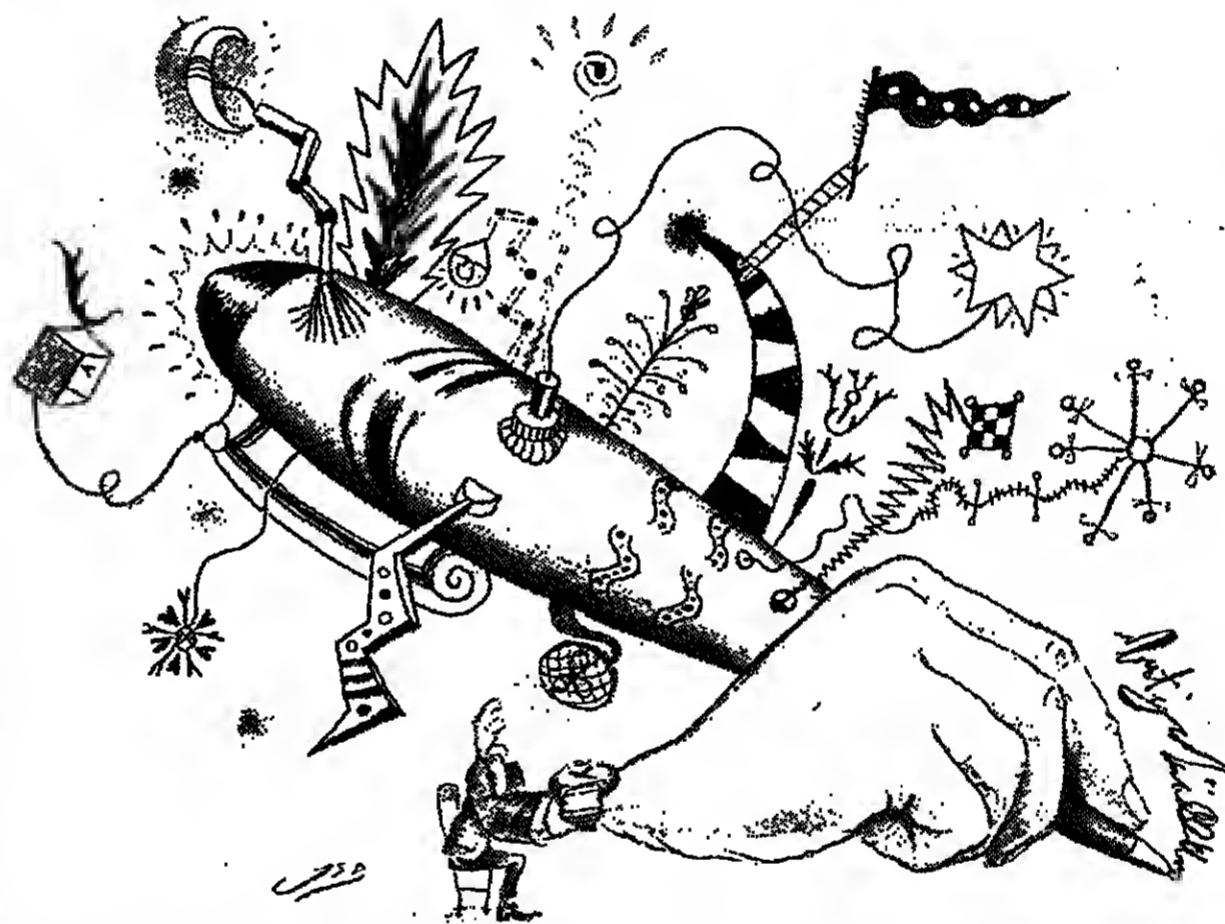
accuracy and invention in "The Kiss" (Random House), Kathryn Harrison's ornate recollections of her incestuous adult affair with her father. There has even been some skepticism that Frank McCourt could possibly have recalled all the heartbreaking conversations and excruciating detail of his poverty-stricken Irish childhood in his memoir, "Angela's Ashes" (Scribner).

Nothing New

As Franklin's case suggests, some aspects of this memoiristic controversy are not particularly new. While the word "autobiography" has an objective tone, as if it just involved writing the chronicle of the person who happens to be gazing out of one's mirror, a "memoir" is a literary form, constructed from shaped memories. It probably came into its own with Rousseau's "Confessions," an 18th-century autobiography whose entire (untrustworthy) pose is self-revelation. "I may omit or transpose facts, or make mistakes in dates," Rousseau declared, "But I cannot go wrong about what I felt, or about what my feelings have led me to do; and these are the chief subjects of my story."

We are in effect living with Rousseau's heirs, who treat the memoir as a history of feelings. The modern memoir shows the self as it sees and would like to be seen, all-powerful, blurring boundaries between interpretation and fact, memory and invention.

In a book like Mr. McCourt's, none of this matters: it rings with authenticity and is shot through with recollected pain. But problems are created when a memoir is also an argument, as in Mr. Reich's. In one of Mr. Reich's examples, Mr. Reich portrayed his talk at a National Association of Manufacturer's breakfast as an encounter with a barely civil, all-male, cigar-smoking capitalist audience; Mr. Rauch argues that the au-



John S. Dwyer

diency was actually nonsmoking, one quarter female and, judging from a transcript, polite while being critical. Mr. Reich's account of hostile, aggressive journalists at a news conference, is unsupported by a transcript of that event as well, as is Mr. Reich's version of what happened at a Congressional hearing. Mr. Rauch argues that Mr. Reich did not bother to check sources because his main intention was to create a kind of cinematic simplicity that would emphasize his virtue (and his martyrdom). The created self was in service to a cause.

Mr. Reich, in a response in the June

7-14 issue of Slate, defended his methods by recounting his own phone conversation with Mr. Rauch: "I've captured the mood, the tone, the feel of the conversation, even if I got some of the words wrong. And that's the truth." Mr. Rauch says he's wrong about that as well.

Mr. Snyder is accused of something similar. According to Mr. Lasswell, Mr. Snyder's portrayal of his academic past is rife with distortion.

His "good job" at the University of Maine, which he says he "quit," was actually a one-year nonrenewable contract. His "firing" from the Eng-

lish department at Colgate University was a routine failure to obtain tenure.

And while Mr. Snyder's quest supposedly ends by his giving up on professional life for the satisfactions of manual labor, Mr. Lasswell asserts he is also holding a one-year position as an assistant professor at the University of Maine. Mr. Snyder's distortions, according to Mr. Lasswell, are in service to a countercultural portrait of public greed and individual virtue. Mr. Lasswell says that Mr. Snyder did not respond, but the accusations, again, are that feelings hold more sway than fact, and perceptions

more than reason.

Sexual memoirs like Ms. Harrison's are somewhat different, because they are part of a growing genre of women's memoirs that Ann Hulbert has described as "the feminine perverse," recounting extreme versions of female experience. At a time when sexual difference is a cultural obsession, each sexual memoir is also a case history of feelings and sensibilities in formation.

This is also true of portions of Naomi Wolf's "Promiscuities" (Random House) as well as the memoiristic essays about sexual arousal in Daphne Merkin's "Dreaming of Hitler" (Crown). The memoir, which has

The modern memoir: a portrait of the author as he would like to be seen.

always been a form of self-presentation, is now taking as its subject the invention of the female self.

It may even be that the explosion of new memoirs is a sign of a more general clamoring for self-definition, a hope that somehow, as we submerge ever more deeply into accounts of the self, we will find not distortion but truth. "I sometimes think only autobiography is literature," Virginia Woolf wrote in a letter late in her life. "Novels are what we peel off, and come at last to the core, which is only you or me." The only problem is that that leaves us only with memoirs and confessions — a collection of narcissistic second editions, composed before they are checked against the definitive first

Guess Which City Looks a Lot Like America

Continued From Page 1

second becomes the establishment," said Wendy Liebmann, a New York retailing consultant and immigrant herself, from Australia.

New York also remains the American business establishment's home office. Corporate power and huge concentrations of capital, from the Fortune 500 fortresses of midtown Manhattan to the financial empires of Wall Street, do not, by their very nature, encourage social experimentation.

A third force of inadvertent conservatism is real estate. Most of the rest of the country is cheaper. Kmart finally came to the space-constrained island of Manhattan for the first time in 1996 for the simple reason that it was one of the few frontiers left. The economics of opening a store in New York finally made sense because the rest of the country

got full up.

The idea of New York City as a promised land — unlike, say, California — has never really gripped the American imagination. For millions of Americans, the phrase "back East" remains a sweeping stock expression that often takes in the New York of their Ellis Island heritage and, in a general way, the past itself.

Just in the 1990's so far, about 1.3 million residents of the New York region have moved out. Indeed, it was big news this year when a New York Times Poll found that for the first time in a decade, a majority of New Yorkers said that given the chance to leave, they wouldn't.

But at the same time, New York is also one of the world's great population magnets, both for foreign immigrants and for ambitious native-born Americans in fields as diverse as

finance and theater, television and accounting and, most recently, computer technology. For the thousands who leave, thousands more come, leaving the population basically unchanged now for years while the city itself constantly churns.

In the past, that classically New York pattern — millions of struggling immigrants living alongside highly skilled, highly paid strivers — made the city an aberrant American place of extreme poverty and extreme wealth. Its base population on average was far less educated than Americans as a whole.

But in recent years, extremes of rich and poor have come home to apple-ripe America as well, in cities of every stripe, as middle-class economic gains have eroded. New York simply doesn't look so strange anymore. Meanwhile, changes in immigration law designed to encourage skills needed in the work force have

Loathe New York in the sticks? Hah. Keokuk would die for a Hercules parade.

resulted in sharply higher education levels among foreign arrivals to New York. In Los Angeles, by contrast, a high proportion of immigrants — many from Mexico, in particular — still come in the classic style, with little formal education.

New York's economic identity — unlike Chicago's, for example — was only marginally ever based on making things. The city had manufacturing, certainly — the garment industry, in particular — but what made it boom, beginning in the 1800's, was the buying and selling and repackag-

ing and marketing of products made elsewhere. Forget the big shoulders. New York was the city of big ledger sheets.

Some sociologists and economists say that the descendants of that mercantile-seaport economic culture, industries that range from Wall Street to advertising to television, are now morphing into a new form as technologies and world trade rhythms meld.

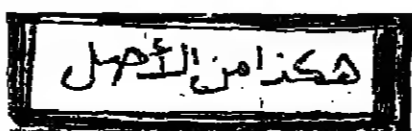
In the post-cold war economy of the 21st century, said Emanuel Többer, a professor of economics and planning at New York University, what America will sell most is its vision, its world view, its entertainment — in sum, its culture. And among the places that seem most

rapidly to be building such a prototypically American economic sector, he argues, is New York.

"A new industrial complex has burgeoned," Professor Többer said. Exhibit A of this cultural/industrial complex is the interconnection of entertainment, fashion and technology that is emerging as the signature flavor of New York's growing computer software industry, known as Silicon Alley. Another example is the tourism-fueled transformation of Times Square.

The next logical question, of course, is what vision of American culture New York will proceed to sell to the world, given that the city has rarely acknowledged the existence of a culture anywhere west of the Hudson River. Or in the end, will New York simply export itself and call it America?

Who will know the difference?



ECONOMY

Jonathan Steinberg: A Financial Empire of Small Stocks

By LESLIE EATON

THE jury is still out on whether Jonathan Steinberg really has the Midas touch. What is already clear is that he has a lot of brass.

While still in his 20's, Mr. Steinberg, who dropped out of college, won The Wall Street Journal's monthly investing contest six times from 1990 to 1994 by betting on tiny, often flighty stocks. Using his reputation as a stock picker and his family money — he is the eldest son of Saul P. Steinberg, one of the most feared corporate raiders of the 80's — young Mr. Steinberg, now 32, went on to build a media empire that specializes in investment tips on small, even obscure, stocks.

He has gradually turned an old penny-stock tip sheet into a glossy monthly, Individual Investor, with a paid circulation of almost half a million. Mr. Steinberg boasts that it is "the most useful and original personal finance magazine in America." His properties also include a small newsletter, a new magazine for stockbrokers, a site on the World Wide Web and a recent book, "Midas Investing: How You Can Make at Least 20 Percent in the Stock Market This Year and Every Year" (Times Business/Random House).

And he donned yet another hat in 1994, raising millions of dollars for a

so-called hedge fund, Wisdom Tree, that he manages for wealthy investors.

But not everything is golden in Mr. Steinberg's empire, despite its glittery surface. The public company he runs, Individual Investor Group Inc., just reported its worst quarterly loss in five years. His once-hot investment fund is in the red, his published stock picks are lagging behind the market and some longtime readers are starting to complain that they are getting poor advice.

And he has recently beefed up his disclosure policy, revealing that the fund he manages has more holdings than previously announced in the tiny stocks he recommends in his publications — stocks that are sometimes moved by those recommendations. While the increased disclosure is no doubt good for his readers, it raises questions about how Mr. Steinberg balances his roles as chief executive, editor in chief and portfolio manager.

Mr. Steinberg says he is not worried about conflicts of interest because of the company's disclosure policies and trading rules. "We are very aware of what the S.E.C. is looking for," he said. A more serious problem, to him, is the distraction that comes from trying to do several things at once. Fortunately, he said, "there is a lot of overlap between my magazine duties and my money-management duties."

Indeed, Mr. Steinberg seems to personify the blurring of the line between journalists and the people they cover, between people who write and people who do.

But financial journalism has attracted everyone from Fidelity Investments, the mutual fund behemoth that owns Worth magazine, to Michael R. Bloomberg, the former bond trader who has built a news organization to help sell his financial data service.

MUTUAL fund managers from Peter Lynch on down have become media stars, Forbes magazine has long had columnists from Wall Street and George Soros's former partner, James B. Rogers Jr., holds forth as a host on CNBC.

Then there is James J. Cramer, who manages a hedge fund while running an Internet news service called thestreet.com, opining in a weekly column for The New York Observer and writing regularly in Worth. But Mr. Cramer, who was mortified by an uproar over some small stocks he had owned and praised in Smart Money, has vowed to adhere to guidelines aimed at avoiding even the appearance of impropriety.

For example, he cannot suggest a story to the staff of thestreet.com — even though he owns almost a third of the company. The reporters and his hedge fund's investment staff are in different buildings, and are forbidden to speak to each other. And though he discloses any ownership stake in stocks mentioned in his columns, Mr. Cramer no longer publishes his stock picks.

He has put all these rules into place, he said, to distinguish his operation from other Internet sites and publications, including Mr. Steinberg's. Why doesn't he approve of Mr. Steinberg? "I think he's in the business I'm in," Mr. Cramer replied, referring to money management. "Let him do what he wants; I feel I have to take special measures."

Mr. Cramer may be wise to be extra careful. People who wear two hats can "play very close to the edge," said Barry P. Barbash, director of the investment management division of the Securities and Exchange Commission, referring to such issues as how they use inside information and whether they invest in stocks ahead of clients or readers, which under some circumstances can amount to illegal front-running. For journalists, the blurring of the distinction between reporters and investors raises questions about motivation and responsibility, said Tom Rosenstiel, director of the Project for Excellence in Journalism, a Washington research group. "The traditional standard is, 'My aim is to get information to the public that is accurate and that I am disinterested in,'" he said. "All I care about is whether something is true, not who profits."

But to Mr. Steinberg, profits are key — not just his profits, or those of his investors, but also those of his readers. "At bottom, to succeed as a company, we have to help people make money," he said.

In fact, Mr. Steinberg considers what he does to be research more than journalism. He describes Individual Investor as research in a magazine's clothing, investment ideas packaged to attract advertisers and readers.

Individual Investor, which is not related to Institutional Investor magazine, includes bright colors, snappy graphics, an occasional bit of sprightly writing, as well as features on broad investing topics like mutual funds and taxes and advice on what to do if you lose stock certificates. Part of the reason the company is unprofitable is that it has spent huge sums redesigning the magazine and adding to the editorial staff.

On the oostands, then, Individual Investor looks almost indistinguishable from titles like Money, Smart Money and Worth. But it is fundamentally different. Its meat is not news about securities markets or the investment ideas of Wall Street gurus.

Instead, Individual Investor's main focus is the stocks picked by Mr. Steinberg and his group of newly minted analysts. Tiny companies all,



Jonathan Steinberg

they tend to feature rapid earnings growth, heavy insider buying, rising stock prices and what he views as exciting new products. He shuns companies that are traded on Nasdaq's OTC Bulletin Board, which has no listing requirements, and insists that companies have at least a million shares the public can buy.

And Mr. Steinberg's favorite role is not chief executive, editor or even portfolio manager — it is analyst in chief, as a visit to his offices in midtown Manhattan makes clear. "I love reading business information," he said. "And now I'm paid to do research all the time."

Though his editorial voice can make him seem arrogant — "No great loss," he once wrote of losing Microsoft as a partner in a project — in person, Mr. Steinberg is boyishly brash, clucking a football and reveling in high-tech gizmos like a Bloomberg data terminal with two screens and a compact disk player that opens at the wave of a hand.

At a table overlooking the obligatory view of Manhattan (from the 38th floor, in this case), Mr. Steinberg explains that he landed in publishing almost by accident. For one thing, he suffered from a reading disability so severe that when his school friends "were reading 'The Yearling,' I was one step above 'The Cat in the Hat,'" he said.

But he had always been entranced by lumber-heavy financial reports like Value Line, and he was determined to become an entrepreneur, like his father, Saul Steinberg, a boy wonder who turned a small insurance company into the giant Reliance Group Holdings, where he still serves as chairman and chief executive.

"When my dad would wake up in the morning, I'd be depressed because I was going to school, but he'd throw his arms in the air and say, 'I love being alive,'" Mr. Steinberg recalled. "He was self-made, and I wanted to be self-made; I didn't want to be the stereotypical son of a wealthy person, but as confident and powerful as he was."

OF course, Mr. Steinberg's definition of "self made" is probably quite different from that of many entrepreneurs, who would feel lucky to inherit a pocket watch from Grandpa. Mr. Steinberg inherited enough money from his grandfather to buy the Penny Stock Journal in 1988, and he received early financial support from his father and his brother-in-law, Jonathan Tisch, president of Loews Hotels. Today, Saul Steinberg and Reliance Group own more than 30 percent of the Individual Investor Group.

Jonathan Steinberg, known as Jono to his friends, found his big idea when he was working on Wall Street at Bear, Stearns, and realized that almost no information was readily available about the vast majority of public companies, those with a total stock value of less than \$250 million.

Professional investors generally disdain such small companies, because they often require too much research for the amount of profits they can generate, and because the thinly traded shares can be hard to sell. But Mr. Steinberg disagreed. "Some percentage of them, I bet, would perform very well," he said. And, since most institutional investors were not active in this area, he thought it would be a place where individuals would have a leg up.

Mr. Steinberg's passion for investments is apparent at his company's weekly "analysts meeting," at which a clutch of bright young men propose investment ideas for the newsletter, Individual Investor's Special Situations Report, as well as for the maga-

zine and, of course, for the Wisdom Tree fund (which also has its own special analyst).

Though it is a scene you would never find in a magazine or newspaper office, in some ways the meeting could be occurring in any Wall Street firm that employs young people still waiting for the results of their exams to become certified financial analysts. Under the direction of Mr. Steinberg and Thomas C. Byrne, the director of research, five of the young men make their cases for their favorite stocks, describing new products and spouting financial ratios.

Despite their obvious smarts and sophisticated financial skills, the analysts and their bosses still display a certain naiveté, especially for people dealing in the risky world of very small stocks, where financial performance can be fleeting and investors' interests do not always take precedence.

For example, one analyst argued for a laboratory testing company that is paying a hefty dividend, even though its operations are not generating enough money to cover the dividend payments. Maintaining the dividend was cited as a vote of confidence by management that sales and earnings were turning around. No one even wondered if perhaps the controlling stockholder was siphoning off some of the company's sizable cash hoard in the form of dividend payments.

The analysts also discussed the prospects for a shoe company called Steve Madden Ltd. without, apparently, being aware of its major claim to fame in the financial world: it was underwritten in 1993 by Stratton Oakmont, probably the country's most notorious penny-stock operation, which was shut down by regulators last year in part because of its manipulation of Madden stock.

Later, over iced tea and rare tuna at Le Bernardin, Mr. Steinberg said he makes it a rule not to judge a company by the way it went public. "You can't read a lot into it," he said. "Small entrepreneurs are just trying to raise money. If a brokerage firm is being dishonest in its dealings, that doesn't mean" its clients are.

MR. Steinberg has his own reasons for being appreciative of small brokerage firms. In 1991, when his company's straits were so dire that he said he was willing to go bankrupt rather than ask his family for more money, Mr. Steinberg was rescued by a small investment outfit, GKN Securities, which was willing to help him sell shares to the public. The offering took place at the end of 1991, when the company raised almost \$4 million.

What public investors got was a 46 percent stake in a mooney-losing company that basically had two products: a small newsletter called Special Situations Report, which focused on one company each month, and Individual Investor, which had a circulation of less than 65,000 and looked a little like Barron's, the weekly Dow Jones magazine that is published on newsprint.

And they got Jono himself, who had become something of a media star through his appearances in The Wall Street Journal. In March 1990, he became one of the professional stock pickers who compete against a randomly selected group of stocks (Journal reporters throw darts at stock tables), a monthly exercise that functions as a sort of Gong Show for money managers.

Mr. Steinberg shone. His first pick, American Film Technologies, soared almost 40 percent in one month, and his second, Image Entertainment, posted a 9 percent gain in a falling market.

But there may have been less there than met the eye. Both of his first picks were very cheap stocks, and it didn't take a big price move to cause a winning percentage gain. For instance, Image's 9 percent increase translates into a move from 69 cents to 75 cents.

Moreover, these were tiny companies with relatively few shares available to the public. Insiders owned 36 percent of American Film's 19.5 million shares; Image Entertainment had 142 million shares outstanding, but insiders owned almost three-

quarters of them. Just a few buyers could push the price up, and did.

The "Steinberg effect" became even clearer with his third pick, Management Company Entertainment, an obscure outfit whose stock zoomed 36 percent the day it was his pick in The Journal, on 37 times its normal volume. (The shares came back to earth quickly, ending the month with a 6 percent gain, which was not enough to win that month's contest.)

The longer-term track record of these companies left something to be desired. Within a few months of appearing in The Journal, Management Company Entertainment had filed for bankruptcy protection, as did American Film Technologies and Mr. Steinberg's fourth pick, Financial News Network.

The Journal, meanwhile, decided to change the contest, because of concerns over the effect of publicity on short-term stock prices. The time period for assessing a stock's performance was lengthened to six months from one, and the minimum stock price raised to \$2.

Mr. Steinberg went on to have some big winners, like Dell Computer; some big losers, like Software Toolworks, and some big winners that ultimately turned into losers, like Clearly Canadian, a little beverage company whose stock went from \$7.50 to \$25 in a year, and then plunged into the pennies.

In 15 tries, Mr. Steinberg won 6 times, which remains a Journal record. He also had some of the worst performers in the history of the contest.

A similar pattern prevailed in the stocks Mr. Steinberg picked for Individual Investor, especially the Magic 25, an annual list of small-company stocks he thinks can average a 50 percent return in the next 12 months. (Just for comparison's sake, over the last 50 years the biggest annual jump for the Dow Jones 30 industrials was a 44 percent gain in 1954.)

Bravely, Mr. Steinberg decided to publish his performance, warts and all. Not that there were many warts, at first. In its first year, 1992, the Magic 25 rose an average of 15 percent; in 1993, it zoomed almost 43 percent.

Given those results, perhaps it is understandable that Mr. Steinberg decided to manage real money in addition to a paper portfolio, despite the headaches such a move would bring. By running a private pool of money known as a hedge fund, rather than a publicly offered pool like a mutual fund, Mr. Steinberg and his company avoided having to register with the S.E.C. as an investment adviser, with the paperwork and reporting that entails.

Nevertheless, the company still has to deal with the potential for conflicts of interest and front-running. Front-running is a particular problem when the focus is on very small stocks, whose prices can sport, at least temporarily, from positive publicity.

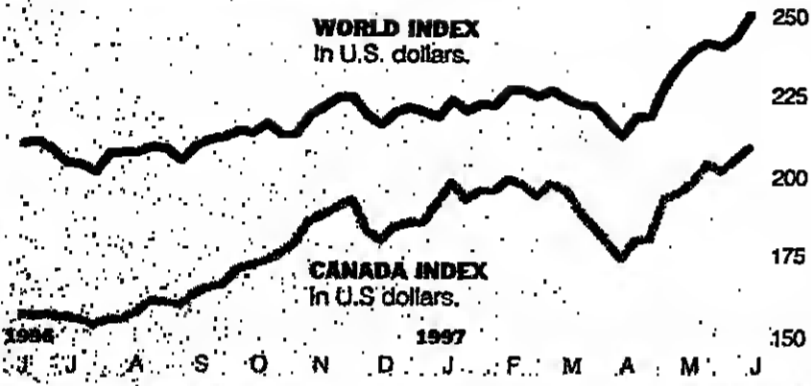
In fact, data prepared by Mr. Steinberg's staff indicate that his operations are effective, at least, in stirring up interest in their "house stocks." After the company's Web site opened to the public in May, trading volume in those stocks soared by tens of thousands of shares.

But to avoid conflicts, Mr. Steinberg's staff members are prohibited from trading personally in the shares of the companies his magazine follows. It is a policy similar to those at many publications; at The New York Times, for example, reporters who regularly cover investments cannot own stock in individual companies, although they can hold investments in diversified mutual funds.

As for Wisdom Tree, the fund has a policy of not trading in a stock mentioned in the magazine for two weeks before publication and for four weeks afterward. And if the trade would be contrary to a published recommendation — for instance, if the fund wants to sell something the magazine said was a buy — it must wait six weeks.

"It is not our intention to profit from a stock by writing about it," Mr. Steinberg wrote when spelling out these restrictions in the January 1997 issue of Individual Investor.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS



Prepared by Goldman, Sachs & Co. using data derived from the Financial Times/Standard & Poor's Actuaries World Index, a measure of stock market performance. The FT indices are compiled jointly by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's, in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and Faculty of Actuaries.

PERFORMANCE IN U.S. DOLLARS IN LOCAL CURR.

Table with columns: Country, Index, Week % Chg., Rank, YTD % Chg., Rank, Dividend Yield, YTD % Chg., Index, YTD % Chg.

COMPOSITE INDICES

Table with columns: Region, Index, Week % Chg., Rank, YTD % Chg., Rank, Dividend Yield, YTD % Chg.

Source: Goldman, Sachs & Co. Exchange rates as of Friday's London close. © 1997 The Financial Times Ltd., Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's.

CURRENCIES

Table with columns: Exchange rate, Friday, Last Friday, Week % Chg., Year Ago

Source: Bloomberg Financial Markets, exchange rates as of Friday's New York close

UPS AND DOWNS

June 9-13: Up, Up and Away: Five Days, Five Records for the Dow

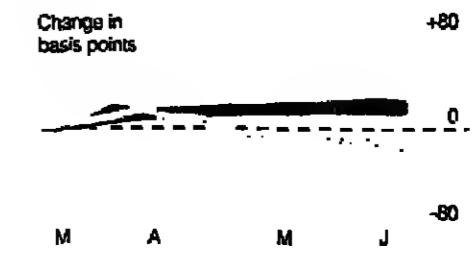
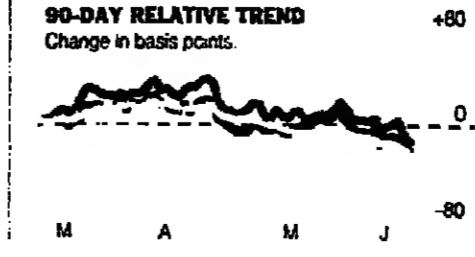
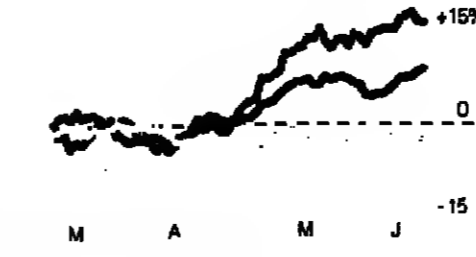
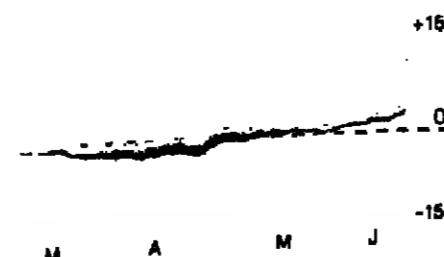
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Sources: Bank Rate Monitor, Bloomberg Financial Markets, The Bond Buyer, Datastream, Goldman Sachs' IBC's Money Fund Report, Merrill Lynch, Standard & Poor's, Ryan Labs

The New York Times

Founded in 1851
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ARTHUR HAYS SULZBERGER, Publisher 1935-1961
ORVIL E. DRYFOOS, Publisher 1961-1963
ARTHUR OCHS SULZBERGER, Publisher 1963-1992

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Mr. Thompson's Stalled Inquiry

Senator Fred Thompson of Tennessee is in an unenviable position as he attempts to conduct an impartial investigation of campaign fund-raising abuses in the election last year. Many senators in both the Republican and Democratic Parties are rooting — and in some cases maneuvering — for him to fail. The partisan anger has all but destroyed the cooperation of the Government Affairs Committee, whose work is vital to the cause of cleaning up the corrupt system of fund-raising in American politics. If the committee's work is to be saved, Democratic leaders will have to abandon their delaying tactics, and the Republican side will have to make some concessions to Democratic concerns.

The inquiry has a second important purpose, which is to examine the possibility of foreign influence in the political campaigns last year. Although the public is deeply troubled by the unlimited flow of money into the political system, opinion polls show that American anxieties are focused the most on whether money from Chinese interests or elsewhere was funneled and laundered and whether any favors, in terms of policy changes or access, were given out in return.

Because of the deep concerns on this issue, Mr. Thompson is right to have attached the highest priority to examining the foreign money issue. Democrats may be uncomfortable, but Senator John Glenn and others need to abandon their blocking actions so that hearings can begin next month. Senator Glenn will blot the record of his last term if he sticks to such unreasonable disruptions as objecting to the dispatching of investigators to East Asia to uncover the sources of money going to the Democrats. The Democrats should cooperate in granting immunity to potential witnesses, as long as it is clear that doing so will not jeopardize the Justice Department's own investigation into possible corruption.

But Mr. Thompson needs to make an important concession to the Democrats. They have a reasonable demand when they say the committee should carry out an equally vigorous investigation into allegations that Haley Barbour, the former Republican National Committee chairman, set up a partisan think tank that received loans and gifts from a Hong Kong business family, in return for access to Republican Congressional leaders and other favors.

In another part of the investigation, set for this fall, Mr. Thompson has promised a full airing of abuses by the Republican and Democratic Parties in soliciting so-called "soft money" for their campaigns last year. These are the open-ended contributions from wealthy individuals, corporations and labor unions that circumvented ceilings and restrictions in Federal campaign laws by going not to individual candidates but to the political parties. It is in this area that the Democrats feel their own requests for subpoenas have been subjected to delays by Mr. Thompson, and it is obvious that Senator Trent Lott and the Republican leadership do not want too much light shed on the practice lest the public demand an end to it.

If Mr. Thompson and Mr. Glenn can work out a framework for an evenhanded examination of legal but corrupt "soft money" practices, it would go a long way to building public support for reform. Mr. Thompson needs to do a better job of standing up to his fellow Republicans and convincing the public that his committee will be bipartisan in its approach and that Democratic subpoenas will be handled in a timely way. Mr. Glenn needs to stop letting Senator Tom Daschle and other obstructionist Democrats tell him what to do.

Otherwise this investigation into one of the most financially tainted Presidential elections will collapse, reinforcing the public's cynicism about the ability of Congress to clean up its practices.

Cease-Fire in TV Ratings Wars?

The major broadcast networks have been grumbling ever since Congress directed them last year to devise a rating system for their shows or risk having one imposed from Washington. Responding halfheartedly to the public's desire for more information about program content, the networks initially came up with a weak menu of ratings that told nothing about the occurrence of nudity, sex, violence and profanity in the shows. In recent weeks, however, at least some of the networks have come forward with a more comprehensive approach. Lawmakers and parents' groups should seize on their initiative and reach a voluntary agreement to test it for the next couple of years.

The original ratings were drawn up by an advisory group led by Jack Valenti, president of the Motion Picture Association of America. Using the movie system as a model, Mr. Valenti's group proposed four ratings for shows: TV-G (for general audiences), TV-PG (parental guidance suggested), TV-14 (parents cautioned against letting children under 14 watch) and TV-M (mature audiences only). Now Mr. Valenti and some of the networks say they are willing to add the letters V, S or L (for violence, sex and language) to these age-oriented ratings to give more information about content. The letters would also be added to the Y-7 (for 7 years and older) for children's programs, leaving the Y rating for other children the only one unaffected. The idea behind these ratings is that, eventually, television sets will have V-chips, electronic

devices that block out shows with certain codes, enabling parents to control what their children may see. The leading parent groups and Congressional advocates have agreed in principle to the additional information being offered by most of the networks. One network, NBC, is objecting to the V, S and L ratings, on the ground that they would violate its free speech. But NBC already agreed to the initial set of ratings and the additions are not onerous.

Some of the network executives argue that if these ratings are established, members of Congress should back off from other coercive steps dictating what may be broadcast and when. That is a legitimate request. There is also a concern that agreeing to a rating system now will invite individual groups to press for more specific labels on controversial subjects, such as abortion, or to launch boycotts or organized demands that programs with certain ratings be kept off the air. The best way to head off would-be censors, however, is to take a reasonable step desired by people with moderate and legitimate concerns.

It is urgent for the networks and their critics to reach a voluntary agreement. As President Clinton has said repeatedly, it is vastly preferable for the industry to regulate itself than for the regulations to come from the Federal Government. A willingness to compromise by the networks, parent groups and members of Congress will be beneficial to everyone, especially television viewers.

Editorial Notebook

The Genius of Scotland

It is a hopeful augury for Britain, and indirectly for all of us, that Scotland and its offspring are again making history. Not long after an Edinburgh research team succeeded in cloning the first grown animal, Edinburgh-born Tony Blair led the Labor Party back to power. Most fittingly, Mr. Blair has announced that his new Government is giving highest priority to improving education.

Scotland is a classic example of the difference that better schools can make. Historians reckon that for its size (about five million people) Scotland in the past spent more on education than any European country, with dazzling results. Scottish scientists gave the world insulin and penicillin (John Macleod and Alexander Fleming), discovered the cause of malaria (Ronald Ross) and transmitted the first television image (John Logie Baird, 1925). All but Baird won Nobel Prizes.

This fecundity has a long history. In the 18th century, Edinburgh and Glasgow were the crucibles of what became known as the Scottish Enlightenment. One of its luminaries, Adam Smith, described education in 1776 as a basic civil right, remarking in "The Wealth of Nations" that a person "without the proper use of the intellectual faculties" was "mutilated and deformed."

To be sure, the system Smith favored was meritocratic rather than democratic, but Scottish schools were generations ahead of those elsewhere. The philosopher David Hume was unusual among Enlightenment notables in being born rich. Most of his peers rose from the middling rungs of a society open to ambitious males with pluck and brains. "I was born a Scotsman, and a bare one," wrote Sir Walter Scott. "Therefore I was born to fight my way in the world."

The seeds were planted by Protestant reformers like John Knox, who saw education as a necessity in his Godly Commonwealth so humble communicants could read the Bible. By 1750, literacy was near universal in the Low-

lands, and overall standards so high that the son of a poor farmer, Robert Burns, attained fame as a poet without attending an elite grammar school or college.

Scottish universities were the focus of special pride. Well into the 19th century the Scots supported four universities to England's two, Oxford and Cambridge. The oldest was St. Andrews (founded in 1411), followed by Glasgow (1450), Aberdeen (1494) and Edinburgh (1582). From these and innumerable smaller academies came the engineers, teachers, preachers and soldiers who streamed to the Americas and every corner of the British Empire. The Yale scholar Linda Colley calculates in "Britons" that in Georgian times Scotland graduated 10,000 doctors to England's 500, and that one in four British regimental officers was Scottish.

The outreach was also intellectual. The Encyclopedia Britannica was born in Edinburgh, 1768-71, followed in 1802 by the Edinburgh Review, the most influential journal of its time. This southerly flow of people and ideas provoked English envy and rivalry, usually good-natured. "Sir," said Dr. Johnson to the Scotsman Boswell, "the noblest prospect which a Scotchman ever sees is the high road that leads him to England."

How did this remote corner of an offshore island throw off such energizing particles? In addition to Knox's teachings and the dismal climate, there is this persuasive explanation, offered by Sir Hugh Lyon Playfair, the provost of St. Andrews in the 1840's: "Education in Scotland is the essential source of its prosperity, for it has scarcely any natural sources of wealth."

None of this is new to Mr. Blair, a graduate of Fettes College in Edinburgh, an outstanding secondary school. He knows British standards have slipped and vows to raise them. He would do us all a favor by promoting some friendly rivalry on this score with his fellow Oxonian in the White House. KARL E. MEYER

Learning prospered on the Celtic fringe

How to Track Down Collegiate Cyber-Cheaters

To the Editor:
As you report, World Wide Web technology offers new opportunities for cheating on college papers (front page, June 8). But the same technology may also provide techno-savvy educators with nano-swift means of bringing cyber-cheaters to justice. Faster computer search programs will make it possible for teachers to locate texts containing identified strings of words from arid the millions of pages found on the Web.

This means that if a professor suspected that students were submitting downloaded papers as their own work, he could input passages of the papers into a search program, a sort of academic sleuth, that could scour the Web for identical blocks of text.

If a hit turned up, the professor could download the original paper and compare it with the student's submission. Such searches would probably not uncover cases in which a cheater went to the effort of rephrasing an entire paper. But lazy cheaters (including, of course, the apocryphal student whose term paper included the phrase, "As readers of this journal will recall...") could be caught.

The routine use of such technologies might suggest a demoralizing lack of trust within the academy. But no more so than proctored exams. If students realized that such Web searches were to be employed in suspicious cases or even randomly, many a hacker slacker would be deterred from substituting a minute's worth of dishonest downloading for the hours of scholarly sweat required to produce original work.

MITCHELL ZIMMERMAN
Palo Alto, Calif., June 8, 1997

Academic Shortcuts

To the Editor:
Re "Internet Makes Term Papers Hotter Property Than Ever" (front page, June 8): Many teachers have computer-related plagiarism concerns in addition to the purchase or free downloading of ready-made

term papers on the Internet. Both on-line and CD-ROM reference materials have made it easy to cut and paste together reports or presentations that appear to have taken hours or days to write, but have really been assembled in minutes with no actual mastery or understanding by the student.

The introduction of hypertext (highlighted words or phrases on Web sites that are linked to related on-line text) has made it possible for students to skip directly to isolated phrases or paragraphs in source material. This cuts the effort involved in preparing a presentation, and can keep the student from gaining knowledge of material related to the subject at hand. It can also encourage



students and educators to put a premium on style of presentation rather than on understanding of content.

New technology challenges parents and educators to teach students about academic integrity and the definitions of plagiarism. Yes, computers can be useful in education, but often technology is a waste of money or worse. WILLIAM L. RUKESVYER
Woodland, Calif., June 12, 1997
The writer is coordinator for Learning in the Real World, a nonprofit information clearinghouse.

Adultery Betrays a Marriage and Society, Too

To the Editor:
"Sanity on Adultery" (editorial, June 10) is amoral and disturbing.

You argue that the military should investigate "consensual sexual affairs unless they have a direct bearing on job performance" or on discipline. Doesn't a soldier's willingness to commit adultery indicate a dangerous disregard for American society? Until recently, there was a belief that marriage was meant to be a partnership based on mutual respect, fulfillment and responsibility. Adultery is a betrayal of these ideals.

We should not blur the distinction between "tacitly tolerated" adulterous relationships and sex between two unmarried adults. Your tone and use of the term "consensual" imply that adultery is a victimless crime affecting only two people. However, by its nature adultery affects the family, and thus society as a whole. AARON M. CYPRESS
New York, June 10, 1997

Let Women Be Priests

To the Editor:
The irony of the Roman Catholic Church's dilemma over the growing decline in male priests and its concomitant resistance to ordaining women was graphically placed in side-by-side ovals on June 8. One can't help but wonder what it will take for the church to recognize that it was through the faith, gifts and ministry of women that God became flesh, the Gospel was preached and the church was formed. (Sister) ARLENE FLAHERTY
Blauvelt, N.Y., June 10, 1997

Childhood on Trial

To the Editor:
Life is incredibly confusing these days. One jury was asked to spare Timothy J. McVeigh's life because he was a darling, well-raised child (news article, June 12), while another jury was asked to spare the life of Jesse K. Timmendequas, who was convicted of the rape and murder of Megan Kanka, because he had a monstrous childhood ("Ugly Life Warrants Leniency," "Megan" Defense Says," news article, June 11). LOIS BRODY
Philadelphia, June 12, 1997

Forest Service Proposal Would Protect Alaska's Tongass Forest

To the Editor:
Regarding your editorial (June 8) on logging in Alaska's Tongass National Forest: All Americans want to protect our forests and the wildlife that inhabit them. But most Americans support multiple use of forests, to protect most of them but also allow some areas to be harvested to provide wood for our homes and fiber for products.

The United States Forest Service recently unveiled a new plan for the Tongass that fully protects Americans' interest in preserving the forest. The plan cuts the allowed and sustainable timber harvest nearly in half, limits logging to a maximum of 8,500 acres a year and creates 1.1 million acres of new habitat areas to protect wildlife. Out of the total forest, less than 7 percent of the commercial-quality trees will ever be touched — one of the lower uses of any national forest in the country.

Your editorial said logging would affect "pristine" watersheds, but under this plan every species of wildlife is fully protected and watersheds are guarded by a host of stipulations. New York produces 10 times more wood

than the Tongass — 1.1 billion board feet in 1996, compared with just over 100 million board feet from the Tongass. FRANK H. MURKOWSKI
U.S. Senator from Alaska
Washington, June 11, 1997

Losing on Timber

To the Editor:
"Poor Deal for the Tongass" (editorial, June 8) is an even poorer deal for taxpayers. According to the General Accounting Office, the Forest Service lost \$100 million in its sale of Tongass National Forest timber from 1992 to 1994.

The economics of Tongass timbering is now even worse than a few years ago. Both of the pulp mills that consumed most of the Tongass's tim-

Beware Web 'Cookies'

To the Editor:
Frank Rich ("howdydood.com," column, June 8) points out the true dark side of the World Wide Web. The Internet is a perfect medium for marketers to reach into the lives of young people and manipulate them in ways that television never could.

By the clever use of "cookies" (tracking technology inserted in your computer without your knowledge by Web site advertisers), marketers can track your (and your child's) Web journeys, using the data they obtain to create a profile.

Some Web browsers (like Netscape) allow you to elect to be warned when a "cookie" is about to be placed, and refuse it. But most people are either unaware of this feature or don't recognize the danger in letting someone look over your shoulder as you travel the Web. SHELDON L. TAYLOR
East Hills, N.Y., June 8, 1997

Schools Are Selling Out

To the Editor:
Frank Rich ("howdydood.com," column, June 8) does a good job of illuminating yet another peril of the Internet: advertisers preying on children. But advertisers are not only aiming their products at children through cyberspace; classrooms are also being used to reach young consumers.

Advertising space is sold on school bulletin boards, and classroom news broadcasts are being piped into schools complete with commercial covers and posters adorned with logos of companies like Wal-Mart, Broth's and Nike.

Parents should band together and insure that there is at least one place where children can get a respite from sales slogans. BILL MARTIN
Lynbrook, N.Y., June 10, 1997

Swiss Haven't Found New Holocaust Funds

To the Editor:
I was astonished to read on your June 11 front page a report of a recent meeting of the committee I head to investigate dormant accounts in Swiss banks ("Swiss Find Funds That May Belong to Nazis' Victims").

It is unfortunate that the first two sentences are misleading in fact and tone. The Independent Committee of Eminent Persons has had no indication from Swiss banks, quietly or otherwise, that they have "recently discovered" hundreds or thousands of dormant accounts that may have belonged to Holocaust victims or that have otherwise been unaccounted for.

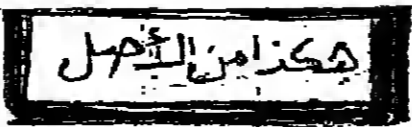
As you report, the committee has begun "pilot audits" of Swiss banks that will provide a basis for an audit of all banks. We also recommend that all dormant accounts of Swiss banks — whether in Swiss or foreign names and whatever their origin — from the years 1933 to 1945 be published as soon as possible.

However, the suggestion that such accounts have been uncovered only recently by the banks is unwarranted. The aim of the audit is to insure that all dormant accounts of persecuted persons from that period be identified. Because those accounts may have been opened in Swiss names, it seems appropriate to go beyond publication of accounts that are thought to be related to Holocaust victims to publication of all dormant accounts. PAUL A. VOLCKER
New York, June 11, 1997

The New York Times Company
229 West 43d St., N.Y. 10036-3959
ARTHUR OCHS SULZBERGER, Chairman
Chief Executive Officer
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DIANE E. BAUER, Senior Vice President
Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer
KATHARINE E. DARBOW, Senior Vice President
LEONARD R. FORMAN, Senior Vice President
JOHN M. O'BRIEN, Senior Vice President
DONALD S. SCHNEIDER, Senior Vice President
SOLOMON E. WADSWORTH, Senior Vice President
LAURA J. CORWIN, Secretary

Questionable Quotes

To the Editor:
There is an easy solution to the problem of inaccurate quotations, Joseph E. Persico's complaint about the memoir of Robert B. Reich, the former Labor Secretary (Op-Ed, June 11). When a speaker's words are quoted but the author does not know the exact words that were spoken, put the quotation marks in brackets. Bracketed quotation marks would alert readers that the quoted words are not being rendered verbatim. For example, future historians reporting Marie Antoinette's alleged comment about the poor would write: "She said, 'Let them eat cake!'" JOHN O. NEWMAN
West Hartford, Conn., June 11, 1997



Journal

FRANK RICH

Straight Bashing Season

It was Richard Tafel, executive director of the gay Log Cabin Republicans, who called last week to remind me of the derivation of the slur "faggot."

As the Oxford English Dictionary says, faggot initially meant "a bundle of sticks, twigs, or small branches of trees bound together" — to be used "as fuel" or for "burning heretics alive." The image was on Mr. Tafel's mind because of the adultery hysteria that now rages through our culture like an out-of-control forest fire.

Homosexuals, especially those in politics, are used to such sexual witch hunts. So, historically, are women. But suddenly in 1997 not even heterosexual men, of all people, are safe from the lapping flames. "The fire the religious right started with gays," says Mr. Tafel, "is starting to singe straight men."

Whether or not the fall of Joseph Ralston, the heroic Air Force general brought down by an extramarital affair, is precisely analogous to the Kelly Flinn case, it is a double for the needless trashing of the gay Bronze Star recipient Margarethe Cammermeyer. Colonel Cammermeyer's 30-year military career was sacrificed as pointlessly as General Ralston's when she revealed the nature of a private sex life that should not be anyone else's business.

The next chapter of this epidemic of panssexual faggot-burning will be played out in the political arena. And as Mr. Tafel acknowledges to his own dismay, it's the Republicans who have the most to lose. If Bill Clinton is caught with his pants down, no one can accuse him of the sin of hypocrisy (and, judging from the polls, no one does); he never promised us a monogamist in the Rose Garden. But for those politicians who have draped themselves in family values, the day of judgment may be at hand. Just as military bureaucrats never imagined that their sexual policing of a

Family-values cops with their pants down.

Flinn or Cammermeyer could backfire on their own sexually fallible high-ranking officers, so straight-male politicians who've made a career of sternly policing women's reproductive organs and gay people's bedrooms risk being hoisted by their own transgressions.

Already there's been one spectacular casualty. In the midst of the Ralston revelations 10 days ago, Michael Bowers, heretofore the leading G.O.P. candidate for the 1998 Georgia governor's race and a religious-right darling, revealed that he had had a 10-year extramarital affair with a married employee.

As State Attorney General, Mr. Bowers was fond of such pronouncements as "Society has a right to define moral standards." He had rigorously enforced Georgia's anti-sodomy law, defending it successfully before the Supreme Court in a notorious 5-to-4 decision of 1986 that sanctified a police bust of two gay men practicing consensual sex in their own home. He had also invoked sodomy in winning Circuit Court ratification of his decision to withdraw a job offer from a highly qualified lawyer who asked a rabbi to officiate over a marriage ceremony — spiritual, not civil — between her and her lesbian partner. But since adultery, like sodomy, is also still on the books as a crime in Georgia, Mr. Bowers now stands revealed, by his own moral standards, as a criminal as well as a hypocrite.

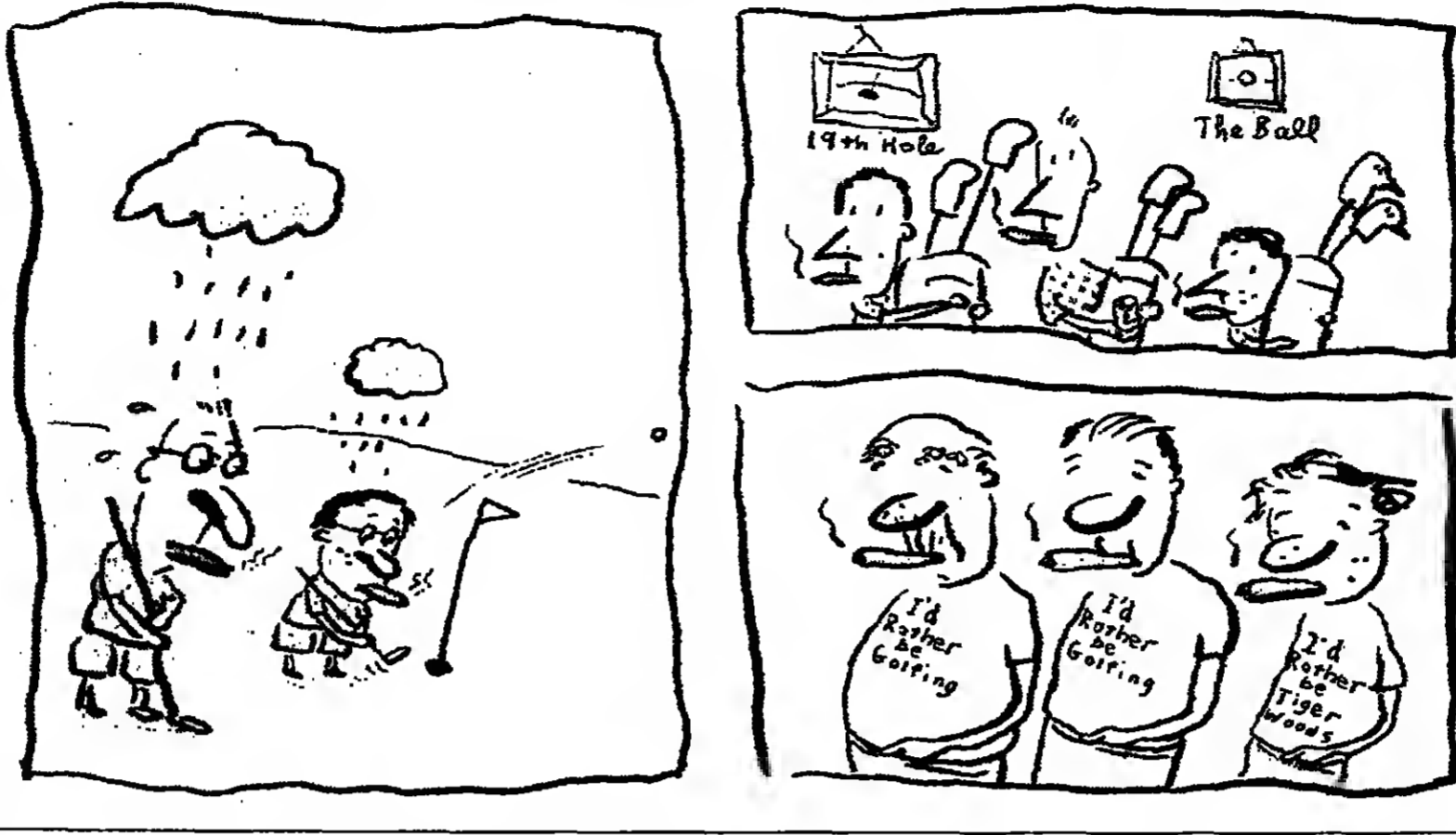
How many other family-values-preaching sinners are out there aspiring to higher office? In a tabloid age when there's a bidder for every secret, and with a Republican hierarchy full of divorced men, we're certain to find out. Like the Bowers case, other recent history reinforces the principle of classic farce: the greater the hypocrisy, the greater the fall. My faves include Enid Greene, the former family-values Congresswoman from Utah oblivious to the check-kiting felonies of her husband, and Bob Barr, the thrice-married Georgia Congressman who last year both sponsored the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act and sternly lectured abortion rights' leaders on morality during televised hearings.

In this heated atmosphere, it only follows that Pat Robertson last week voluntarily gave up the Christian Coalition's presidency and, in a vote for the almighty dollar over the Althea almighty, sold his Family Channel to Rupert Murdoch, the man who turned over TV's family hour to "Melrose Place." Mr. Robertson, equally shrewd as a politician and a businessman, knows enough to cash out of the family-values racket just moments before the crash.

Op-Art

BONNIE TIMMONS

Fathers & Sons Captured at Play: A Celebration!



Face the Failure of Racial Preferences

By Newt Gingrich and Ward Connerly

WASHINGTON In August 1963, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave heartfelt voice to his dream of a world where children are judged by the content of their character rather than the color of their skin. A few months later, in May 1964, President Lyndon Johnson told the graduating class of the University of Michigan, "The Great Society is a place where every child can find knowledge to enrich his mind and to enlarge his talents."

Unfortunately, three decades and \$5.4 trillion of Federal Government spending later, Dr. King's dream still remains unfulfilled and nearly all of America knows that the Great Society has become an expensive failed tribute to the collective liberal imagination. Over the years, Federal welfare programs for the poor were enacted that created and sustained an illusion of activity but that, in reality, did more harm than good.

Even worse, a complicated set of Government rules and regulations were developed in almost every area of life, the intent of which was to eliminate discrimination. Yet the cruel fact has been that Government has brought about nearly as much discrimination as it has eliminated — just in a different form — and has masked the very real problems that still exist.

President Clinton's speech on race yesterday in San Diego was actually a missed opportunity to address these critical issues; we wish he could have laid out a plan for real education reform that would produce genuine equality of opportunity for all.

Let us take a look at the record. Welfare spending is more than eight times what it was in 1965, adjusted for inflation, and it's time to ask, What do our children have to show for it? Well, for starters, over four million more of them are now living in poverty — 43 percent of all black children and 41 percent of all Hispanic children. Violent crime has skyrocketed, especially in the inner cities.

Newt Gingrich is Speaker of the House of Representatives. Ward Connerly is chairman of the American Civil Rights Institute and a University of California regent.

But for evidence of the Great Society's greatest failure, look no further than the current state of public education and President Clinton's politically expedient but totally indefensible support for racially based "Band-Aid" measures. Rather than face up to the catastrophic failure of inner-city educational systems and deal honestly with their essential problems, the President, like others holding on to this failed system, refuses to reform a system that falls morally as well as practically.

Like so many whose political fortunes depend on unions and bureaucracy, Mr. Clinton, sadly, refuses to acknowledge that the ill-conceived education policies of the 1960's deserted the children who needed help the most.

The education bureaucracy won't concede that, despite spending trillions of dollars on education over the past 30 years, American children are further behind today. It doesn't want to admit that the S.A.T. scores of African-American children, which average 100 points less than the scores of white children, are the direct result of the current policies.

Failed social policies will not educate our children.

The National Education Association doesn't want to bear the blame for the fact that 40 percent of all 10-year-olds can't meet basic literacy standards or that 66 percent of African-American fourth graders fail national geography standards. These are not racial inadequacies, they are education inadequacies.

Nor will the education bureaucracy admit that low-income high school students are giving up on school in ever increasing numbers. The fact is that disadvantaged children are not receiving the "knowledge to enrich their minds and to enlarge their talents," as President Johnson promised. Instead, many education and minority leaders cling to a system of racial preferences using the diploma of an arbitrary test to paper over what has become a national human catastrophe. For the sake of

all our children, these people must face the cold, hard truth: Every time we use racial preferences to effect change, it is proof that we have failed a child somewhere.

President Clinton refused to face the core of the problem: Money without reform will not educate our children. Look at the spending in inner-city schools today. The District of Columbia spends more money to educate its children than any state in the country — more than \$9,000 per student per year — and yet its children rank at or near the bottom of national test scores. Something is very wrong with the schools of our nation's capital; both the teachers and their students are being shortchanged by a stagnant, uncaring educational bureaucracy.

Government-imposed quotas are no substitute for education reform. Racial preferences may offer an illusory way out for a few students, but the vast majority of children in the inner cities are being deprived by their schools of the opportunity to go to college. We've all seen recently the dramatic drop in minority admissions to the University of California at Berkeley and the University of Texas School of Law, institutions that did away with race-based preferences. This shamefully under-scores how much race and race alone has been used instead of merit in our halls of higher education.

Supporters of preferences see those numbers as vindication for their claims of racism in America; they are simply wrong. The real villain in this 30-year morality play isn't bigotry or the University of California Board of Regents or the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. The original affirmative action policies were indeed well-intentioned efforts to redress centuries of racial discrimination. Yet they have been perverted over the years. The racial preferences used in their name have been used as masks to avoid real reform. They have become an excuse to perpetuate an inner-city system to cheat those children most in need out of a real future.

Failing to save these children should cause shame to all Americans. No one has chosen to help our underprivileged develop their talents. No one has insisted they have schools in which they can succeed. As a country, we all share that shame, but the creation of a small minority professional class through racial preferences to ease elitist

guilt is an unacceptable and unconscionable alternative. And applying racial preferences to business practices is no better.

Yet the education bureaucracy warns that "radical" reform could harm children. It is difficult to imagine that any of the education proposals being offered today could do any more damage than the failed policies of the last 30 years.

There are promising solutions: In the 104th Congress, for the first time ever, a legitimate school voucher initiative for the children of the District of Columbia was passed in the House; there were enough votes to pass it in the Senate.

Unfortunately, unions, resistant to change, prevented it from coming to a vote. Representative Dick Army of Texas, the majority leader, has introduced a similar measure this year. Is giving poor parents the same opportunity as wealthy ones to send their children to the school of their choice a risky venture?

Is giving poor parents the opportunity to send their children to a safe school truly dangerous or just threatening to those dependent on the status quo? Is it harmful to the future of our children to demand that they be able to read before they are passed on, or do real standards bring too many of the failures of the current bureaucratic system to light? Does lowering the standards of graduate school admissions to certain individuals really address inequality of opportunity or simply give one group a place at the table while trampling on the basic rights of another? Do we bring the people of this country closer together when we reject one of America's most basic principles — the notion that people should be judged individually on merit, not collectively by the color of their skin — or do we breed new resentment and doubt?

Education is the key to a productive, healthy citizenship. But our system of racial preferences is the wrong door. The failed Great Society policies have devastated and divided two generations. We have seen how Government-imposed racial preferences actually stand in the way of true educational reform. The President must abandon the misguided belief that our society should ever use discrimination to end discrimination.

Essay

WILLIAM SAFIRE

Cold Stove League

WASHINGTON Because all our word processors are said to be programmed to self-destruct at the stroke of the year 2000, which will be just when Presidential politics reaches fever pitch, I am impelled to get some heavy thumb-sucking and chin-pulling in early.

Welcome to the opening of the Cold Stove League. Geez! Baseball fans remember the "Hot Stove League" as the scene of sessions of sweet speculation in the bitter of winter about far-off summer's pennant race. In politics, the seasons are reversed, and balmy June is the time to ruminate, test up on the air-conditioner, about the snows of early primaries.

Who will be starting pitchers — or the starting batteries — on both sides? As Clinton heads to the showers, Democratic eyes are fixed nervously on Al Gore, centrist darling of re-invented environmentalist poverty-vowing Buddhist donors now claiming Fifth Amendment privilege.

See-no-evil Democrats know that next month's Thompson committee hearings into campaign scandals have little to do with Clinton's past and everything to do with Gore's future. Jack (Tell 'em Nuh'n!) Quinn, the recently escaped White House counsel who raised stonewalling to a high art, is set to head the Gore campaign. His first challenge is to help Senator Tom Daschle (who warmly recommended Lippo's John Huang for his top-secret Commerce post) torpedo Fred Thompson's bid to replace Gore as America's favorite Tennesseean.

As Gore's Boy Scout veneer is peeled off at Congressional hearings that will extend into 1998, the A.F.L.-C.I.O. candidate, Dick Gephardt, will spend a year or two as the designated

Sessions of sweet speculation.

liberal Anti-Gore.

That House Democrat's union-directed tough line on China will appeal to activist primary voters as Clinton-Gore appeasement fails, but Gephardt image-makers have yet to confront their product's Robotic Smarm Problem. In private, he comes off direct, knowledgeable, even likable; but when the camera's red eye flashes on, Deadeye Dick adopts the persona of an oleaginous Max Headroom.

Warning up in the bullpen, waiting for the Gore-Gephardt taffoc to cause rank-and-file Democrats to seek a candidate untaunted by leadership experience, is Massachusetts' Senator John Kerry. Just re-elected, the former combat pilot has a free ride in 2000. His opposition to his party's centrist budget agreement positions him as maverick, and his recent speech to Aipac holds Gore and Gephardt close to Israel.

Dreamers and goo-gos will talk about Bill Bradley, but he is a perennial winner of the Mario Cuomo Fire-in-the-Belly Award; unless he gets serious early, picking up I.O.U.'s helping Democrats win Senate races in '98, the anybody-but-Gore crowd will make its choice between the unions' Gephardt and the liberals' Kerry in '99.

Republicans? Familiar faces like Lamar Alexander, Steve Forbes and Dan Quayle are taking early soundings and will be chucked at by the Great Mentioners yearning for new faces to tout and then savage. Gingrich and Lott are non-starters. Jack Kemp's role is elder statesman. Pat Buchanan may pass up a run this year, averting Stassenhood, but if Gov. Christie Whitman wins big in New Jersey she'll become a national factor.

Many an eye is on Gov. George Bush in Texas who gives Clintonites fits with innovative education programs. He is universally acknowledged to be a better campaigner than his father and is less likely to risk his oock parachuting. Serious Republican polls talk more about him than anybody. Colin Powell? He could give Bradley a race for the Cuomo Award. Few Republicans want him except those hung up on winning the Presidency, and nobody wants to go out on a limb to support what may turn out to be another book promotion. But if Colin felt the call, and if he sensed the time to be not out of joint, and if he were willing to plunge into the demeaning democratic business of asking for money and for votes ... (Too many ifs.)

John Kasich may have peaked too soon. The Ohio budget-balancer with a feel for the House's mood and a sense that the media world is mad has embraced triangulation, but maybe marriage and a few zaps in the press will settle him down. With his experienced innocence, this post-boomer could surprise on the primary campaign trail. John McCain. Wants it. Outside the Club. Can absorb punishment. For openers, let's say it's McCain and Kasich against Kerry and Bradley, and the Dow is coming down through 10,000. (Throw another log on the air-conditioner, son ...)

Note to Readers

The Op-Ed page welcomes unsolicited manuscripts. Because of the volume of submissions, however, we regret that we cannot acknowledge an article or return it. If manuscripts are accepted for publication, authors will be notified within two weeks. For further information, call (212) 556-1831.

The Morning After Is Too Late for Safe Sex

By Bruce Bawer

The last couple of years have seen an extraordinary flowering of medical advances in the fight against AIDS. The latest news is that some doctors are administering medication immediately after a possible exposure to H.I.V. as a so-called morning-after treatment to prevent AIDS infection. If those doctors are correct, some lives will be saved. This, of course, is reason to celebrate. Yet the history of the AIDS crisis suggests that there may also be reason for concern.

Ever since the connection was made between H.I.V. infection and sexual activity, many doctors and health officials have agreed with gay-

rights advocates that the use of condoms amounts to "safe sex." The correct term is really "safer sex." Condoms don't eliminate the possibility of infection, they just reduce it. The

A weapon against H.I.V. has its limits.

only truly safe options, as leaders of the religious right regularly point out, are monogamy and abstinence.

To preach total abstinence is unrealistic and disastrous public-health policy. Yet it has long been recognized that "safe sex" rhetoric is potentially disastrous, too, because it tends to inculcate a false sense of security: "If I use a condom, I'll be O.K."

A New York Times article about the morning-after treatment reported on a doctor who administered the regimen to a man whose condom broke while he was having sex with a prostitute. Despite the lack of studies supporting such treatment, some doctors are using it for patients who have engaged in high-risk sex.

But if the public perceives morning-after pills, together with condoms, as part of a new, improved "safe sex" package, the result may be reinforcement of the potentially dangerous idea that any kind of sex with anybody at any time is indeed safe. The peril is increased carelessness: If people know there's a morning-after remedy, they may do things the night before that they might otherwise have avoided — and whose dire consequences the treatment may not ultimately prove capable of preventing.

The use of expensive AIDS drugs as a morning-after remedy also raises troubling questions about who has access to such treatment. While

affluent Americans may soon be able to drop by their doctors' offices to get the miracle pills, AIDS sufferers in the third world receive woefully inadequate care and die much sooner than they might have had they received proper medication.

This latest medical advance in the battle against AIDS looks promising. But perhaps, given the disturbing implications, it is too soon to rejoice.

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Amal

attempts to repair coral reefs are actually going better than anyone ever expected. A coral reef, or a coral island, is fragile because it is a living, growing entity that, like all living things, has basic needs that must be satisfied. And corals can be damaged in many ways, by breaking, crushing or poisoning, either by pollution or by a silt covering that deprives them of light and oxygen.



The Yowies, Toronto's Jewish bikers' club, gives new meaning to 'meals on wheels.' Kneeling in the front row is president and founder Bob Brodie.

Yidden On Wheels

'The open road and five square meals a day' is the motto of Toronto's Jewish bikers' club, Lauren Blankstein reports

Wearing black leather chaps and jacket he rides his rumbling Harley into the lot. His silver hair peeks out from underneath his helmet. In his sunglasses, you can see the reflection of the 30 gleaming motorcycles parked in front of him. He dismounts while the "blonde babe," perched majestically on the rear, slowly peels off her gloves. It's an impressive sight, despite the fact that you know he's a dermatologist.

It's 9 on Sunday morning in the parking lot of a popular Toronto deli. The Yidden On Wheels, a Jewish motorcycling club, is meeting for its weekly ritual. About 35 members are present. As always, they have come decked out in their finest leather chaps, studded biker jackets, tight leather pants, boots, fringed gloves. They mingle all puffed up and proud, admiring their two-wheeled trophies.

Yidden On Wheels, or the YOWies as they like to call themselves, is based in Toronto and has a handful of members in Australia, Israel and the United States.

After about 20 minutes of loitering, one of the few females in the group yells, "let's eat," and with her call a trail of YOWies make their way into the restaurant for a hearty breakfast.

"Our informal motto," laughs one member, "is 'the open road and five square meals a day.'"

Made up mainly of professionals — lawyers, doctors, accountants, business and sales people — the club has a strict policy that members "must leave their egos at the door" and they are forbidden to use the organization for networking. In addition to eating and biking, they do charitable work and when the bikes are retired for the winter, members get together for parties.

Riding abilities and reasons for riding vary from person to person. For Jeannette Wajsbender (one of the club's four female riders), the primary reason she rides a motorcycle is to be part of Yidden On Wheels. She's a Lubavitch single mother of four who knows nothing about bikes and relies on the help of other members to maintain her Honda 500. Although she says she loves to ride, she admits that she probably wouldn't own a motorcycle if the club didn't exist. It's the marriage of two elements — the

freedom of riding and the YOWies' strong sense of community — that draws her to this particular club.

At first glance, this group bares an uncanny resemblance to the stereotypical, beer-guzzling thugs of a biker gang. But what gang requires each member to equip his bike with a first-aid kit and announces details of a *shiva* for one of its

members' parents before hitting the open road?

"The gang image is something we're trying to dispel," says Bob Brodie, one of the club's founders and its president. That's why he insists that during club rides they break up into small riding groups so as to avoid intimidating car drivers.

Brodie is a big, burly man who has been riding motorcycles for 40 years. His extensive travel log includes a year spent riding around the world and a few trips to Alaska. The club trips don't usually venture that far away from home. In addition to day rides throughout southern Ontario, this year they are planning a trip to Canada's east coast.

Brodie and three friends established the club in June 1995. "We thought there had to be more than four Jewish guys who ride motorcycles," he says. Today they have a whopping 115 members.

"It's going to peak," predicts Harley Davidson owner Morris

What gang announces details of a shiva for one of its members' parents before hitting the open road?

Cooper, the club's ride coordinator. "There are a finite number of Jews on bikes." However, there are also nine non-Jews who dish out the Can.\$65 (NIS 160) annual membership fee; they are lovingly referred to as "righteous members."

"This isn't a flash in the pan, we're going to be around for a while," says Brodie.

The club is impeccably organized — they have a written constitution, a monthly newsletter, in-house legal counsel and they even sell jackets, vests and pins adorned with the YOWie crest which features the Star of David and "hai" written in Hebrew.

The oldest bike in the group is a 1961 BMW and the newest is Brodie's 1997 Honda Gold Wing, which retails for approximately \$35,000.

But that's peanuts compared to some other souped-up treasures that are worth up to \$80,000. On a few, the paint job alone costs \$15,000.

After breakfast, a slightly thinned-out crowd is back in the parking lot preparing for departure. Brodie scans the group, shrugs and then explains: apparently for some YOWies the trip to the restaurant and back home is enough riding for one day.

Home Front

The X's and Y's of child rearing

By Allison Kaplan Sommer

You can talk about parenting philosophies until you are blue in the face, but in my book, there are two basic kinds of parents: those who can leave their kids and those who can't.

Sometimes, before a baby is born, it is possible to detect which people will become which brand of parents — but not always. Sometimes the transformation can be radical. Couples who once loved to go to parties, dine out at fine restaurants, see movies, travel, decide to procreate and — BOOM — they don't leave the house except to work,

I carry my cellular phone wherever I go. Pre-baby, I took a solemn vow that I would never become one of those rude and crass Pelephone People.

grocery shop or visit petting zoos for the next five years.

Now, I think it's wonderful if people honestly and truly want to spend every moment of their free time with their children. (I haven't met any people like that, but I think it's wonderful.) But the reasons that many parents sentence themselves to house arrest are more complicated than that.

Resolving the question of whether to leave your kids so you can dine/romance/socialize/travel at any given point is a simple mathematical equation. You take the amount of pleasure, relaxation and enjoyment you will get from your excursion — let's call that Variable X. Then you take the amount of guilt, worry, and fear you will feel from leaving your children with somebody else — let's call that the Y Factor. If X exceeds Y, you should definitely go out. If Y exceeds X, then what's the point? If you can't enjoy yourself while you are out, what is the point of dressing up and shelling out hard-earned shekels for a babysitter? You would have been better off renting a movie and ordering in some Chinese.

Much of the above calculation depends on the quality of babysitting available. Parents who are freest to come and go as they please are the lucky folks who have both sets of grandparents living within spitting distance and are eager to host their grandchildren at any time. These are by far the most "liberated" of parents. They can achieve a spontaneity of lifestyle that even those with the most reliable live-in hired help fail to achieve. Why? Because the Y Factor is nearly totally eliminated — they

babysiters. Yes, I confess, I am a heavy user of babysitters. I try to allay my conscience by adopting my babysitters and treating them like family (and one of them is actually a cousin). My message is: "treat my kid nice and I'll do anything for you. I'll pay you way over the going rate, I'll talk to you endlessly about your boyfriend, I'll stock the freezer with Haagen Dazs." Am I a pushover? Probably, but it's all in the interest of reducing the Y Factor.

Even with bribes, it is never possible to totally relax when baby is home with a sitter. When I go out, I carry my cellular phone wherever I go. In restaurants and cafes, the first thing I do is pull it out and plunk it on the table to make sure I hear it if it rings — and if it does, I answer with a loud and anxious "Hello."

All of these actions go against my principles of proper conduct. Pre-baby, I took a solemn vow that I would never become one of those rude and crass Pelephone People.

Up until this point in my baby's life, I have been pretty relaxed about leaving him alone with one of the members of my team of caregivers or with my in-laws, and have not held back when friends have invited us out to dinner or a great movie is playing.

But I feel like the clock is ticking. My nine-month-old is just getting to the age where he can comprehend that Mommy and Daddy are leaving him behind for the evening and has just begun to whine and cry in protest when that happens. Behavior like this sends my Y Factor skyrocketing.

I suppose it's time to update those takeout menus and tune up the VCR.

EARTHLY CONCERNS

Saving coral reefs

By D'VORA BEN SHAUL

Attempts to repair coral reefs are actually going better than anyone ever expected. A coral reef, or a coral island, is fragile because it is a living, growing entity that, like all living things, has basic needs that must be satisfied. And corals can be damaged in many ways, by breaking, crushing or poisoning, either by pollution or by a silt covering that deprives them of light and oxygen.

Despite the many dangers to corals, studies have shown that the greatest damage seems to come from crushing or breaking them. Sometimes this is the work of vandals and coral thieves, but most often the damage is done by inept scuba divers, according to Australian experts who have spent a number of years studying the problem. Too often, they say, these divers have too little experience to be let loose in the vicinity of something as delicate as a coral bed and they become like the "bull in a china shop."

Up until now, most attempts at repairing damaged corals haven't enjoyed great success. Either it was impossible to secure transplant material or too much transplant material was needed, making it harmful to the donor reef. But Australian marine biologists have recently started a new coral repair technique. So far the experiments have been a remarkable success.

The new technique makes use of fast-setting, underwater epoxy cement, a stiff brush and small pieces of live coral not larger than



Divers are the main cause of damage to corals; now they may also be the solution. (W. Brown)

reef, the spot where they are to be planted is abraded with the brush and the piece of living coral is cemented in place with the underwater epoxy. By using this technique, it is possible to make a number of transplants without causing any significant damage to the healthy donor reef.

Corals disperse either by spreading to adjacent areas or by the release of free-floating live polyps that settle on surfaces and begin to grow. No one knows exactly what it is that attracts free polyps to live coral clumps rather than dead coral. Whether or not the free polyps continue to colonize the transplants is as important as their spread and continued growth out of the transplanted material.

When the cause of reef damage is poisoning by chemicals, sewage, siltling over from eroded land masses along the shore or, as in the case of some Australian corals, destruction by predatory starfish, then transplants are not useful until the original cause of the damage is removed. But, for corals that have sustained mechanical damage by man or machine, the transplant technique seems to be one possible solution.

In order to keep down costs, Australian experts are now training veteran scuba divers in the technique of reef grafting. Each team will be accompanied by a biologist who will choose and remove the donated material from the healthy reef, and the volunteers will do the grafting. After all, since it was mainly divers that did the damage, it seems a good thing to include them in the repairs.

10 cms. by 10 cms., that have been carefully removed from the original reef or island. These pieces are taken immediately to the damaged

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THE JERUSALEM POST

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Slavin: Economic reform too slow

Teva's Hurvitz warns multinationals threaten independence of Israel's leading corporations

By AMOTZ ASA-EL and DAVID HARRIS

The government's program of structural changes in the economy is being implemented too slowly, Finance Ministry director-general Shmuel Slavin said yesterday at the fifth annual Caesarea economic conference.

The conference assembles the country's economic elite under the auspices of the Israel Democracy Institute in order to debate and explore fundamental issues on the eve of the launch of the government's budget deliberations.

Slavin's remarks were made amid lively discussion among leading industrialists, financiers, academics and government officials, including the ministers of

Finance and Industry and Trade, the governor of the Bank of Israel, a host of directors general and leaders of the banking sector.

Slavin called on the government to hasten reforms in the capital markets, electricity sector and in the structure of the Port Authority.

"[There must be] greater openness to the outside world, more competition, [and] fewer binding agreements," he said. "The short-term difficulties are insignificant in comparison to the great benefits which will fill the economy with these changes over the coming 10 years."

If the telecommunications industry can take such successful, radical steps in a relatively short period, there is no reason

why other sectors cannot follow suit, added Slavin.

His stance was shared by his predecessor, David Brodet, who said the government's record on reform in fiscal 1997 adds up to "a lost year" and stressed that reforms pertaining to the equity and currency markets must be implemented in tandem lest the ill-fated precedent of the 1977 currency reform be repeated.

Brodet was referring to the shekel's sudden and full flotation, which was not coupled with other market reforms and ultimately resulted in hyper-inflation two decades ago.

Concerning foreign currency reform, the delegates largely ignored a banner headline in yesterday's *Yedioth Aharonot*

which claimed Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has decided to launch a sweeping foreign currency reform in line with the Bank of Israel-inspired blueprint.

The report suggests that any Israeli be allowed to possess unlimited currency whether at home or abroad and freely execute transactions and transfers.

Finance Minister Dan Meridor, responding to the report in his opening address to the conference, dismissed it outright and called it "stupid."

Meanwhile, a senior Bank of Israel source said the forex reform the central bank has been espousing for several years will indeed be implemented "imminently."

While many of the participants went

through the ritual of opposing and supporting the Bank of Israel's monetary policy, Teva CEO Eli Hurvitz caught the delegates' attention by suggesting that the accelerating arrival of multinational corporations on the local economic scene is "threatening the future independent existence of Israel's leading companies."

Stressing he has nothing against globalization and multinationals, Hurvitz explained his model in this regard is IBM, which, while being unquestionably global, nevertheless clearly maintains its American features.

"Why did Effie Arazi establish his EFI firm abroad?" asked Hurvitz, who suggested the government should focus its investment-aid policies on human capital.

Jerusalem firm launches Internet multimedia experience

By JUDY SIEGEL

A Jerusalem company will today launch a "Virtual Community of Tomorrow," offering CD-ROM quality multimedia experiences over the Internet in the user-friendly format of a "theme park" with pavilions.

Community Network Systems, part of the Net Results holding company in the capital's Talpiot industrial zone, offers the multimedia Funk & Wagnalls Encyclopedia - which includes a games arcade, cooking classes, chat groups, medical advice from Johns Hopkins University, movies, concert halls, shopping, the Reuter news center, museum visits and more on VCOT.

The services are now all in English and aimed at Internet users worldwide, but the intention is to start a Hebrew-language service suited to Israelis within a year, using the services of Virtual Jerusalem, of which Net Results owns a part.

Harry Fox, a recent immigrant from the US who was the inventor of the first personal computer in 1989 and was involved in the failed Superstudio enterprise in Jerusalem, says many people will prefer the on-line service to CD-ROMs, which are expensive.

"Software stores hold only a small percentage of the hundreds of thousands of titles that have been produced in recent years," he said. "And once you buy a CD-ROM, the information gradually becomes obsolete."

Fox explained that the multimedia encyclopedia (its predecessor was the highly popular Infopedia) on VCOT is regularly updated and, because it is on-line, the space for multimedia is virtually unlimited.

In addition, it has a collection of term papers with full outlines on various subjects. Pupils can use the material, including links to additional information, to learn how to write their own papers for class.

The service (via www.VCOT.com) is free during its initial launch and then, starting this fall, will cost \$29.95 a year for its basic package (cooking classes, for example, will cost an additional fee).

Unlike America On Line or CompuServe, VCOT does not provide Internet access in its package. Nadine Kaplan-Wildmann of the company explains that Fox preferred to allow users to shop around for an Internet service provider that offers the best value in cost and speed of connection. VCOT offers original content as well as links to high-quality sites, and not just links to other sites.

The service could be a bit disappointing for people with computers more than two years old, as their resolution will be below the 800x600 pixel screens (without this resolution, they will have to scroll right and left over the home page). Without a Pentium processor, the on-line access will be much slower than from a CD-ROM.

BUSINESS

in brief

Tadiran Info. Systems wins Bezeq contract

Tadiran Information Systems Ltd. has won the contract to provide and operate Bezeq International's computerized customer care, sales and accounts services, the companies announced yesterday. The deal is worth tens of millions of shekels, according to Bezeq International's information systems head Ahuva Cohen.

David Harris

Ministry, Bezeq agree on digital network standard

The Communications Ministry reached an agreement with Bezeq last week for a temporary standard for integrated service digital network (ISDN) equipment. The standard is based on that proposed by the Israel Standards Institution in March of this year and includes changes proposed by Bezeq. When all the bureaucratic procedures are completed, it will be adopted as the required standard for ISDN equipment.

Judy Siegel

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.625	1.625	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.625	0.750	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)	-	-	-

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (13.6.97)

Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.6714	3.7307	3.32	3.48	3.7048
German mark	3.3829	3.4375	3.32	3.48	3.4310
Pound sterling	1.3527	1.3893	1.32	2.02	1.9748
French franc	5.5249	5.6141	5.43	5.70	5.5750
Japanese yen (100)	0.5803	0.5897	0.57	0.60	0.5854
Dutch florin	2.9553	3.0030	2.90	3.05	2.9887
Swiss franc	1.7394	1.7875	1.70	1.80	1.7563
Swedish krona	2.3449	2.3828	2.30	2.42	2.3881
Norwegian krone	0.4343	0.4414	0.42	0.45	0.4384
Danish krone	0.4680	0.4758	0.46	0.48	0.4723
Finnish mark	0.3140	0.3223	0.30	0.33	0.3186
Canadian dollar	0.6327	0.6533	0.64	0.68	0.6588
Australian dollar	2.4462	2.4857	2.40	2.53	2.4878
S. African rand	2.5424	2.5835	2.48	2.62	2.5887
Belgian franc (10)	0.7520	0.7842	0.68	0.77	0.7589
Austrian schilling (10)	0.9483	0.9838	0.93	0.98	0.9571
Italian lira (1000)	2.7803	2.8252	2.73	2.87	2.8066
Jordanian dinar	1.9805	2.0227	1.95	2.06	2.0101
	4.7714	4.8484	4.71	5.03	4.8636

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI



European Union Summit opens today

Bystanders look through a security fence which surrounds the Amsterdam Summit ground yesterday. The European Union Summit will be held today and tomorrow to discuss a new European Union treaty, but the meeting has been overshadowed by a row between France and Germany over how to proceed toward monetary union.

(Reuters)

Panel to check accounts of local authorities

By DAVID HARRIS

Interior Minister Eli Suissa yesterday announced the creation of a committee to examine the accounts of local authorities which have built up an overall deficit of NIS 4 billion.

This follows the government's approval of the Kucik report on pay excesses in public bodies and the resolution of the four-week

Union of Local Authorities (ULA) strike.

The committee, to be headed by Prof. Amir Barnea, will work with local authorities in checking accounts.

The committee will recommend timetables for taking action and propose any legislation it determines is required.

The committee comprises accountants and representatives of

the ULA, Interior Ministry and Treasury.

The committee has been asked to report no later than December 31.

In the agreement between the government and ULA, it was agreed that in some instances councils will be permitted to increase local property tax (*armona*).

Manufacturers Association

President Dan Propper yesterday wrote to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, saying this measure is against the government policy of not raising taxes.

This will prove to be quite a negative step for industry, he added.

Industrialists currently pay an annual NIS 1.1b. in local property tax, according to the association.

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The last date for submission of proposals: August 14, 1997 at 11 a.m.

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- Participation in the tender is also subject to complying with the preliminary conditions detailed in the Tender Regulations 1993, Para. 6(a) 1, 2, 3 (i.e., registration as required by law, compliance with mandatory specifications, and the holding of the permits required by law for transactions with public bodies).
- The Israel Electric Corporation reserves the right to allow a bidder who has not provided some required certificate, permit, license, or any other document, to make good this omission, within a period of time to be fixed by the Corporation.

The tender documents may be obtained Sunday - Thursday, at the Import Dept., 11 Sderot Pal-Yam, Haifa, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, on submission of a receipt, demonstrating payment (non-refundable) of the cost of the documents into the Corporation's account at the Postal Bank. Payment slips for making such payments are obtainable at the above address or by telephoning 04-861-5348/197 (Shlomo Daniel). Before purchasing the tender documents, they may be perused at the offices of the Import Department, at the above address. Bids must be delivered in a closed envelope to room 511, 5th floor, Pal-Yam Building, Haifa, by the last submission date, as shown above. The Electric Corporation has no obligation to accept the lowest bid or any of them.

NOTE: In appropriate cases, the Electric Corporation will give preference to suppliers, in accordance with the Tenders Regulations (Preference for Locally Produced Goods, and Obligation to Extend Commercial Cooperation).

The Electric Corporation retains the right to negotiate, where this is legally permissible.

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مكازم التبادل

SPORTS

in brief

England keep same 13 for Lords Test

LONDON (Reuters) - England's selectors named an unchanged squad of 13 yesterday for the second Ashes Test against Australia starting at Lord's on Thursday.

Michael Atherton's team lead the six-match series 1-0 after winning the first test at Edgbaston by nine wickets.

If all-rounder Adam Hoggie and left-arm spinner Phil Tufnell are again left out, England would be fielding the same 11 for the first time in 34 home Tests.

Souness confirms he will manage Torino

TURIN (Reuters) - Former player Graeme Souness confirmed his return to Italy yesterday to coach serie B side Torino.

Souness, a former Scottish international captain who resigned last month as manager of English club Southampton, is expected to stay for at least two years.

Torino, once one of Italy's greatest clubs, finished this season ninth in serie B, their worst performance on record.

Paul Ince set to return to England

ROME (Reuters) - England international Paul Ince has confirmed that he plans to leave Internazionale Milan, Italian sports newspaper reported yesterday.

They speculated that the 29-year-old star, who has spent two seasons at Inter, would move to English premier league side Liverpool.

Alboreto drives Porsche to Le Mans victory

LE MANS (Reuters) - Italian Michele Alboreto realized a dream when he drove the Joest TWR Porsche prototype to the German team's second successive Le Mans 24 Hours victory yesterday.

It was a record 15th Le Mans win for Porsche and a fourth for the Reinhold Joest team, whose prototype designed by Briton Tom Walkinshaw followed victories in 1984, 1985 and last year, all with the number 7.

Saturday's interleague baseball games

NY Mets 5, Boston 2; Cleveland 8, St. Louis 3; Baltimore 6, Atlanta 4, 13 innings; Colorado 7, Oakland 1; Chicago Cubs 9, Milwaukee 5; Seattle 9, Los Angeles 8; Cincinnati 5, Chicago White Sox 1; St. Louis 5, Cleveland 2; Kansas City 5, Pittsburgh 3; Montreal 1, Detroit 0; Toronto 3, Philadelphia 2; Minnesota 6, Houston 1; Texas 8, San Diego 6; San Francisco 10, Anaheim 3.

Bracken summoned from holiday to join Lions

DURBAN (Reuters) - England scrumhalf Kyran Bracken was summoned from a Caribbean holiday yesterday to join the British Lions as the replacement for injured Welshman Rob Howley on their South African tour.

Bracken had been enjoying the first day of a holiday in Tobago, unaware that the Lions wanted him to replace Howley who dislocated his left shoulder during the Lions' 42-12 victory over Natal at Kings Park on Saturday.



YOUNG HOPEFUL - Mark Philippoussis conquers Queens, looks forward to Wimbledon. (Reuters)

Philippoussis wins Queens serving duel with Ivanisevic

LONDON (Reuters) - Australian Mark Philippoussis, the fastest server on the circuit, won the London grass-court title at Queens Club yesterday with a hard-hitting victory over fellow service specialist Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia.

The 20-year-old from Melbourne served 15 aces in the 7-5, 6-3 win. There were only two break points in

the match - in the 12th game of the first set and the eighth of the second - and Philippoussis, playing his most consistent tennis of the week, made no mistake.

Ivanisevic, like Philippoussis, a lofty 1.95 meters tall, slammed down 12 aces in the match which produced only a handful of rallies longer than four shots.

Top-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia beat Czech Petr Korda 7-6 (7-2), 6-7 (5-7), 7-6 (9-7) to win the \$875,000 Gerry Webber Open grass court tournament in Halle Germany, while second seeded Felix Mantilla halted Brazilian Gustavo Kuerten's winning run at the \$328,000 Bologna clay court event with a 4-6, 6-2, 6-1 victory yesterday.

Graf considers ending injury-plagued career

BONN (Reuters) - Steffi Graf, worried that chronic injuries could damage her long-term health, said at the weekend she is considering retiring from the game and would have no problem ending her career.

The German winner of 21 grand slam tennis titles in an unparalleled 15-year career also told *Welt am Sonntag* newspaper that she was unhappy over the treatment she has received from one of her doctors.

Graf, who celebrated her 28th birthday in a physiotherapy clinic on Saturday, said the physician, Dr Hans Paessler, had failed to warn her about the dangers of returning to tournament play before a knee injury had fully healed.

"I am completely open on this question," said Graf about retirement when the newspaper's interviewer asked about the possibility.

Schumacher wins Canadian Grand Prix

MONTREAL (Reuters) - Twice world champion Michael Schumacher of Germany regained the lead in the world drivers championship in chaotic and exceptional circumstances when the crash-hit Canadian Grand Prix was brought to an early end yesterday.

Schumacher, in his Ferrari, was leading after 55 of the 69 scheduled laps when the race was red-flagged to a halt three laps after Frenchman Olivier Panis had crashed heavily in his Prost car.

Panis was lifted carefully from the wreckage of his vehicle, put on a stretcher and taken to the circuit medical center while the race continued behind a safety car before being stopped.

Early reports said Panis had suffered a broken right leg and a suspected broken right arm. He was said to be conscious and in a stable condition.

Schumacher was declared the victor by 2.7 seconds ahead of Frenchman Jean Alesi in a Benetton, and Italian Giancarlo Fisichella in a Jordan.

But he was fortunate to win because Briton David Coulthard, who was in a commanding 31 seconds lead after 50 laps, lost the ascendancy when he stalled after a pit stop and also because local hero and championship favourite Jacques Villeneuve of Canada had crashed out of the race in his Williams on the second lap.

PAOK Salonika wants Zvi Sherf

By ORI LEWIS

Greek basketball club PAOK Salonika yesterday sent a fax to Maccabi Tel Aviv asking for the services of coach Zvi Sherf.

Rumors that the Greeks were interested in the coach had been circulating for the past few days, and last night Maccabi chairman Shimon Mizrahi confirmed that a fax concerning Sherf had indeed been received from the Greek club.

Mizrahi told Channel 1's Mabat that PAOK are willing to pay Sherf \$1.1 million for his services

for a two-year contract.

He made no hint, however, whether Maccabi would allow the coach to leave, although he stated that in the event that Sherf does go to Greece, his deputy at Maccabi, Yoram Harush, would be a prime candidate to replace him.

Sherf, who is also the national team coach, is currently in Spain as Israel prepares for the European Championship finals in a warmup tournament.

Sports Editors: Joseph Hoffman and Ori Lewis

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הכזמן האחרון

NEWS

in brief

Labor officially accepts Zvilli's resignation

The Labor Central Committee yesterday approved outgoing party Secretary-General Nissim Zvilli's resignation, which went into effect last night. Party chairman Ehud Barak will assume the authority of secretary-general for the next four months. Then he will either hold an election for a new secretary-general or appoint an administrative director-general for the party, as Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu did for the Likud. Sarah Honig

Netanyahu meets Yisrael Ba'aliya MK

Yisrael Ba'aliya MK Tzvi Weinberg and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu spent an hour yesterday, at the prime minister's initiative, discussing the crisis between the prime minister and the party. Weinberg said he told Netanyahu, "in a language he understands well [English], that the crisis is not an artificial one, but that a very serious situation exists." Weinberg complained about the fact that funds promised to aid in the absorption of immigrant scientists have not yet been released and explained that the insistence on a qualified ambassador to Moscow is not "a frivolous prestige play." Sarah Honig

Yehezkel denies charges in court

Labor MK Avi Yehezkel, who is accused of spending NIS 16,700 in Histadrut funds on his 1992 primary campaign and then covering the outlay with fictitious invoices, denied all the charges in tearful testimony in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday.



Avi Yehezkel (Israel Sun)

He is accused of ordering billboard posters, and the printing of campaign literature in Romanian. He also is charged with organizing a victory party for himself at the Rishon LeZion country club, after he secured a place on the Knesset list.

In his testimony, he denied knowing anything about billboards, and said the party was a farewell party made for him, as he was to leave his Histadrut posts. Yehezkel had served as chairman of the Histadrut's administration and manpower division, and head of the Re'ut advanced-study fund for Histadrut employees. Itim

Weizman celebrates 74th birthday

During the opening ceremony of a ceramics exhibition by Israeli artists at Beit Hanassi yesterday, Reuma Weizman informed the guests that it was her husband's 74th birthday. The singer who was to perform at the ceremony then led the crowd in singing "Happy Birthday" to President Ezer Weizman. Itim

Mordechai meets with Ross

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and US peace process coordinator Dennis Ross met in Los Angeles yesterday and exchanged views on reviving the peace process, the Prime Minister's Office announced.

It also said Mordechai then went to Arizona, where he examined and flew in the "Long Bow" version of the Apache helicopter, the US Army's next attack helicopter. Jerusalem Post Staff

Olmert lawyer asks witness return to stand

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert's attorney has requested defense witness Menahem Atzmon be recalled to the witness stand, after Atzmon denied testimony about him given by Prof. Ya'acov Ne'eman. In April, Atzmon testified that he did not remember having a conversation with Ne'eman relevant to Olmert's trial for allegedly raising funds for Likud illegally. However, when Ne'eman testified earlier this month, he outlined the conversation. Atzmon has denied this version and the defense asked he be given a chance to refute Ne'eman's testimony. The court gave the prosecution until Friday to consider the request. Itim

CPI

Continued from Page 1

The clothing and footwear index rose 4.3%, with clothes becoming more expensive by 5.7% and footwear by 1.6%.

Fruit and vegetable prices rose 1.2%, the main increase was in the cost of fresh fruits, up 16.1%, while fresh vegetables dropped 11.5%.

Other foods rose some 0.6%. Transport and communications also increased by 0.6%. The communications sector contributed the lion's share to this rise (up 3.3%).

The health index rose 0.4%, particularly because of increases in health insurance costs.

The cost of home upkeep increased 0.6%; cleaning materials were up 3.1%, for example. However, furniture and larger domestic items fell 0.2%.

The largest single decline was in housing prices (-0.6%). Buying apartments became cheaper by 0.7%, while rental accommodation rose 0.1%.

With relatively low CPIs expected over the next few months, economists say they expect an early reduction in interest rates, with Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frankel possibly announcing a cut later this month.

Dan Galai, joint managing director of Sigma Portfolio Selection Consulting & Management Ltd., said the relatively low CPI will be of particular good news to the stock exchange. It should encourage a reduction in interest rates, he said.

"The governor could easily reduce rates by 1% and a total 2% over the next six months. Whether he does it in one fell swoop or over five installments wouldn't make that much difference," he said.

COURT

Continued from Page 1

Three other petitions calling on the government to establish a judicial commission of inquiry were turned down at the previous court session. Handing down its reasons yesterday, the court said that the government's decision not to do so was "not highly unreasonable."

The rulings were read out by Zamir to a packed courtroom. Asked about the "gray area" mentioned by the court, State Attorney's

Office representative Uzi Fogelman said that "the bottom line" was that the court had upheld the state's version as being reasonable. "There is no universal truth and there are always dissenting opinions about what is right or wrong," he said.

"Our task is to state unequivocally what is right and wrong according to law," Rubinstein said in response to a question, while Arbel, who has spent the better part of the past five months dealing with the affair, added: "The issue has now moved into the court of public opinion and we have completed our role."



Former Labor secretary-general Nissim Zvilli leaves the police station in Petah Tikva yesterday after being questioned about his connections to Zvi Ben-Ari. (Alon Roa/Israel Sun)

Police question Zvilli about Ben-Ari case

By RAINE MARCUS

Outgoing Labor Party Secretary-General Nissim Zvilli testified to police yesterday that before the 1996 elections, Zvi Ben-Ari, formerly known as Gregory Lerner, offered him free air time on Russian satellite television. Zvilli said that after checking the legality of the offer, he refused it. "Lerner's offer was against the political parties financing law," Zvilli said, adding that he had met

with Ben-Ari three times. Zvilli's testimony was the first in a series expected to be given this coming week by MKs and ministers. National Investigations Chief Sando Mazor convened with the National Crimes Squad chief Dep.-Cmdr. Moshe Mizrahi yesterday to prepare a list of those to be questioned. Trade and Industry Minister Natan Sharansky and Yisrael Ba'aliya MKs Yuli Edelstein and Yuri Stem are expected to be questioned about contributions allegedly received or

offered by Ben-Ari. Labor Party leader Ehud Barak also probably will give evidence, along with MKs Haim Ramon and Sofa Landver. Police Insp.-Gen. Assaf Hefetz also has recommended that tax authorities investigate Ben-Ari's financial activities here. Ben-Ari is suspected of defrauding Russian banks of \$85 million, financial irregularities here, bribing civil servants and bank employees, involvement in the murder of a banker in Russia and

plotting to kill another. The last two allegations are no longer being investigated here. An appeal against his remand in custody was rejected by Tel Aviv District Court yesterday. His lawyers claimed that he is being discriminated against, since all his employees, initially on remand, have been placed under house arrest. But the court ruled that Ben-Ari is the "head, brain and heart" behind the allegations and his remand is justified.

Conservative, Reform delegation optimistic after meeting with Netanyahu

By HAIM SHAPIRO

A delegation of leading rabbis from the Conservative and Reform movements in Israel and the US emerged from a meeting with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu with no promises that the conversion bill would be shelved, but confident that the premier genuinely wishes to reach a compromise.

The meeting began what is to be a marathon of talks between the non-Orthodox leaders and members of the Israeli establishment, including what one mem-

ber of the delegation described as "Orthodox rabbis in key positions." The only Orthodox politicians they are to meet are Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy and MK Shaul Yahalom, both of the National Religious Party.

Meeting with Netanyahu last night were Reform rabbis Eric Yoffie, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and Uri Regev, director of the Israel Religious Action Center, and Conservative rabbis Reuven Hammer, head of the Rabbinical Assembly of Israel, Gil Nativ, its spokesman, Joel Meyers, execu-

tive vice president of the Rabbinical Assembly of America, and Jerome Epstein, executive vice president of the United Synagogue of America.

"It was a positive meeting. [Netanyahu] said he wants a solution," Yoffie said. Netanyahu told them that there is a good chance of a reasonable solution, Yoffie continued. It was clear to the prime minister that passage of the conversion bill would be a disaster, otherwise he would not have initiated last night's meeting, Yoffie added. Regev described the meeting,

in which a prime minister met with top non-Orthodox leaders from Israel and abroad, as unprecedented.

"There was a real readiness by the government not to postpone any solution indefinitely or to put forward synthetic solutions," Regev said.

However, Hammer pointed out that the coming two-and-a-half days of talks would be critical.

"We are looking for a formula by which our converts can be registered as Jews, but which would at the same time give the Orthodox the feeling that these people were not exactly registered as Jews," Hammer said. At the same time, the Conservative leader said his movement has no intention of withdrawing its petition to the High Court of Justice, asking it to order the government to recognize as Jews a number of adopted infants converted by its rabbis.

The High Court has given the government until June 30 to answer the petition, and the coalition is attempting to pass the conversion bill first.

Meyers noted that the American Jewish community is watching Israel very carefully, especially after the incident on Shavuot, in which a group of non-Orthodox Jews praying in the Western Wall plaza was attacked by haredim and forced to leave after police said they could not protect the group.

Netanyahu "acknowledged that terrible incident," Meyers said, but made no further reference to it.

However, Epstein added, that incident, like the conversion bill, is a symptom of a bigger problem, *snat hinam*, baseless hatred between Jews.

WEATHER

Jerusalem 18-22
Tel Aviv 20-25
Haifa 20-28
Ashdod 19-21
Golan 15-25
Dead Sea 20-30
Eilat 25-30

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear.

AROUND THE WORLD

	C	F	C	F	
Amsterdam	12	54	17	63	cloudy
Berlin	12	54	21	70	rain
Buenos Aires	21	70	24	75	partly cloudy
Cairo	21	70	34	93	partly cloudy
Chicago	18	64	22	72	cloudy
Copenhagen	14	57	23	73	cloudy
Frankfurt	15	59	23	73	cloudy
Geneva	16	61	23	73	cloudy
Helsinki	15	59	18	64	cloudy
Hong Kong	24	75	27	81	clear
London	13	55	17	63	clear
Los Angeles	17	63	28	82	partly cloudy
Madrid	17	63	28	82	clear
Moscow	08	46	20	68	clear
Mumbai	15	59	20	68	clear
New York	14	57	25	77	clear
Paris	11	52	20	68	clear
Rome	18	64	20	68	clear
Stockholm	13	55	17	63	cloudy
Sydney	06	43	14	57	rain
Tel Aviv	20	68	27	81	partly cloudy
Toronto	09	48	21	70	clear
Tybe	17	63	24	75	partly cloudy
Zurich	13	55	22	72	clear

Winning cards

In yesterday's daily Chance drawings, the winning cards were the 10 of spades, queen of hearts, 9 of diamonds, and 10 of clubs, and the 7 of spades, king of hearts, jack of diamonds, and 10 of clubs.

Sinead O'Connor receives local death threat

By ELLI WOHLGELERITER

Police reinforcements will likely be added Saturday night to patrol at the concert by Sinead O'Connor at Jerusalem's Sultan's Pool, following death threats against the singer received 10 days ago by the British Embassy in Tel Aviv.

The anonymous caller did not give a motive, just said that if Irish singer came to perform here, she would be killed. The embassy passed on the warning to the police and the Irish Embassy.

Irish Ambassador Brendan Scannell said he passed on the contents of the threat to O'Connor's agent.

Published reports said intelligence sources believe that the threat was made on behalf of a far-right Jewish group, opposed to the purpose of the open-air concert. O'Connor's performance is the climax of five days of cultural and political events sponsored by Bat Shalom, a feminist center, and its Palestinian counterpart, the Jerusalem Center for Women, on the theme of "Sharing Jerusalem - Two Capitals for Two States."

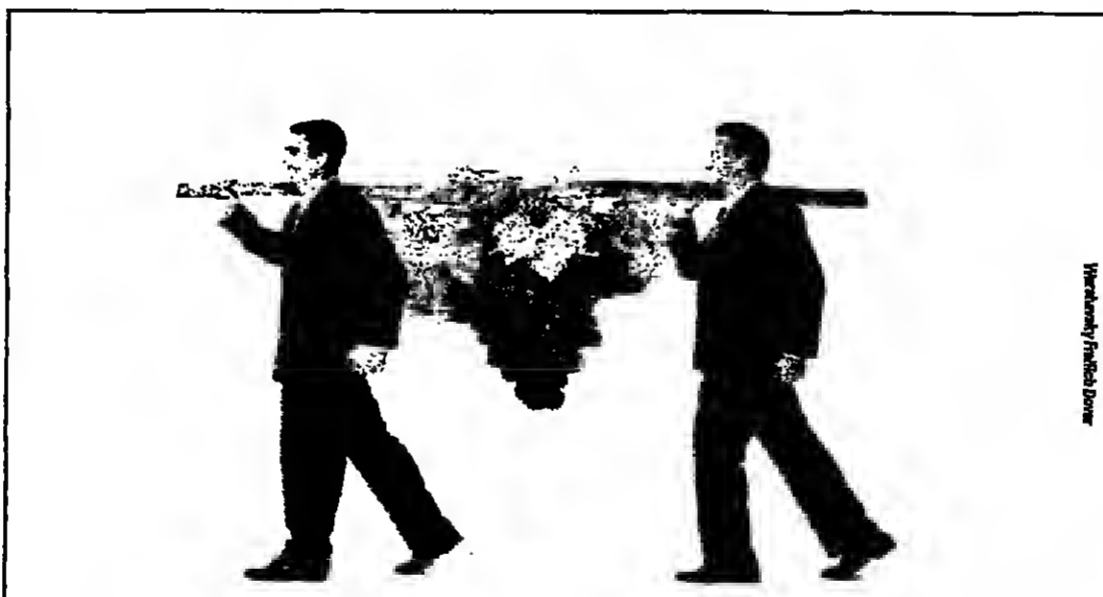
The week's events, which begin tomorrow, include music, an art exhibition entitled "Down with the Occupation '87-'97," tours of Jerusalem, and panel discussions between Palestinians and Israelis.

Saturday night's concert will be preceded by a joint Israeli-Palestinian march from the Damascus Gate to the concert site, to demand the establishment of a Palestinian state with eastern Jerusalem as its capital.

A meeting is to be held this morning between the event's organizers and the police, to determine the exact route of the parade, and whether the marchers may fly the Palestinian flag.

The city is upset over the political nature of the concert, which is being funded by the European Community, the Ford Foundation, the Danish Embassy, and the French, Belgian, Swedish, and Spanish consulates. "When they signed the contract, they said it was a cultural event, not a political event," said a city spokeswoman. "Otherwise they wouldn't have received permission."

Gina Benevento, associate producer of the week's events, said the charge is unfounded. "We didn't misrepresent ourselves," she said.



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